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IDF soldier killed, 3 others wounded in Hizbullah attack

AN IDF soldier was killed and three others were wounded when their tank was hit by a Sagger missile during a long-range Hizbullah attack on an IDF outpost in the security zone yesterday.

Moshe Daniel said that overall his condition was good. "We also received the other soldier, who was more seriously hurt, and after resuscitation and other treatment he was flown on to Rambam," said Daniel.

ern sector of the zone, as well as at South Lebanese Army troops in the same area. One of the missiles scored a direct hit on a tank - not one of the well-protected Merkava tanks but one of the older types - which had been positioned alongside the IDF outpost.

During the same period, there have been over 300 attacks against IDF and SLA targets in the security zone and the SLA-controlled Jezzine enclave north of the zone. Some 150 of the incidents occurred in the first three months of the year, prior to Operation Grapes of Wrath. There was a marked drop in attacks afterward, with

only 21 in August and 23 in September, when Hizbullah and its Shi'ite rival Amal were involved in the Lebanese elections. Since then, however, there has been another upsurge, with over 40 incidents recorded last month and 10 so far this month.

Hizbullah firing originated. OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine said two Hizbullah squads were involved in the attack. One got to within close range of the IDF position and opened fire with mortars and light weapons.

(Continued on Page 2)

DAVID RUDGE



Police arrest a Palestinian demonstrator during clashes in Hebron yesterday.

Clinton: Clear Hebron hurdle

MK claims Kiryat Arba settler stoned him

RESOLVING the impasse over the IDF's redeployment in Hebron would go a long way toward bringing about further agreements, US President Bill Clinton said in Washington on Friday.

HILLEL KUTTLER and Itim

Sara, which records Abraham's purchase of the land on which the Machpela Cave sits.

The visitors, some of whom slept in tents, thronged to pray at the Machpela Cave, which was open only to Jews this Shabbat.

Three busloads of Hadasah supporters, led by MKs Hashem Mahameed and Tamar Gozansky, also arrived in Hebron yesterday to stage a demonstration demanding the immediate redeployment of the IDF in the city and the division of Jerusalem.

The group, consisting mostly of Israeli Arabs, clashed with Jews and with police, who said the demonstration had not been coordinated with them and was therefore illegal.

When police attempted to disperse the demonstrators as they approached the Avraham Avinu enclave, the protesters began to strike out and throw stones. Other Palestinians in the area soon joined in the clash. Fourteen people were arrested, 10 Palestinians from Hebron and four members of the Hadasah contingent.

By last night, most of them had been released, including Hebron's Palestinian governor, Aziz Amr. At least seven of those arrested, including the Israelis, had signed commitments not to enter Hebron

and to adhere to other restrictions.

Mahameed, meanwhile, was threatened by Jews last night when he attempted to enter the Givat Avot neighborhood of Kiryat Arba to file a police complaint relating to the clash. He claimed that during the confrontation he had been hit by a stone thrown by a settler.

When he approached the station to file the complaint, he was surrounded by Jews who threatened to attack him. Police succeeded in extracting him from the crowd.

Four Meretz MKs - Dedi Zucker, Anat Maor, Naomi Chazan and Walid Saadeh - also toured Hebron yesterday and then met with Mayor Mustafa Natshe. They then walked through the city, arm-in-arm with several dozen Palestinians, in a march that had been cleared with the security forces.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said yesterday that dozens of Jewish extremists from Hebron and elsewhere in the territories would be arrested before the redeployment in Hebron.

"We are prepared for the possibility that during the redeployment Jewish extremists will use guns to try to ignite all of Hebron in an attempt to prevent the pull-back," Kahalani told Army Radio. "We will collect all the dangerous ones, those who pose a threat to

(Continued on Page 2)

Haredim attack car near Rehov Bar-Ilan

BILL HUTMAN

DOZENS of haredim yesterday attacked a car after the driver accidentally turned onto a Jerusalem street that is closed on Shabbat, a police spokesman said.

The crowd forced the out-of-town driver and four passengers to a halt on Rehov Givat Moshe, near the Shamgar funeral home. The spokesman said haredim shook and kicked the car and pounded on its roof. They then attacked police called to the scene by a secular passerby.

Reinforcements had to be brought in to help the first police unit and free the passengers from the car, which was slightly damaged. A policeman was lightly injured, the spokesman said. The driver was taken to the Russian Compound to file a complaint. There were no arrests.

Hundreds of haredim tried to block nearby Rehov Bar-Ilan yesterday afternoon, after Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy called for the road's closure during Shabbat prayer times at a High Court of Justice hearing Thursday.

Police forced the haredim off the road, and kept it open to traffic. The court has yet to rule on Levy's request, and an injunction keeping the road open remains in effect. Three policemen were lightly injured during the clash, a police spokesman said. There were no arrests during this incident, either.

Police had been bracing for the unrest at Rehov Bar-Ilan, believing that the haredim would not be content with anything but the road's closure for all of Shabbat.

On Thursday, Levy told the court he accepted the Zameret Committee's recommendation that Rehov Bar-Ilan be closed during prayer times on Shabbat and holidays. Levy was sharply criticized by secular leaders for rejecting the committee's recommendation that

(Continued on Page 2)

Alternatives to security zone provide worse scenarios

COMMENT ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

IT would be easy to say that yesterday's Hizbullah attack is the beginning of the post-US election escalation in south Lebanon that everyone has been predicting.

However, Israel's highly visible retaliation following the death of another IDF soldier is sending a message to Hizbullah, and ostensibly Syria, that the army is not going to stand idle for fear of being an accessory to this flare-up.

The nature of the security zone has changed drastically.

The posts the IDF set up in 1985, after it withdrew the bulk of its forces from Lebanon, were placed on highly visible peaks to serve as a deterrent to Palestinian terrorists wishing to infiltrate into Israel.

Today, the enemy has changed, and for the Iranian-backed Hizbullah gunmen who have taken the Palestinians' place, the hilltop bunkers and trenches are nothing more than

points and like the classic guerrilla, they prefer the exposed positions or supply routes and attack almost daily.

So why stay? Why not conduct a unilateral withdrawal to the international border and take away Hizbullah's pretext for attacking Israel?

Despite the vulnerability of its troops, Israel will remain in the security zone simply because all alternatives produce a worse scenario.

As long as Syria is able to use Hizbullah as a proxy to attack Israel; as long as the possibility exists that once the IDF withdraws to the international border Hizbullah will move on to its other declared goal of liberating Jerusalem; and as long as no formal or informal agreement is made with a Lebanese body to fill the void that would be created when the IDF pulls out, Israeli soldiers will remain in the trenches in Lebanon.

But like a virus, Hizbullah fighters adapt themselves to Israel's increasingly technological warfare. They hit at the IDF's weak

Shara: Israel-Syrian talks won't resume until '97

ELDAD BECK PARIS

SYRIAN Foreign Minister Farouk Shara said yesterday that peace negotiations with Israel will not resume before January, when he believes the reelected US administration will be able to focus on the talks.

Speaking with journalists in Paris after a meeting with French President Jacques Chirac, Shara said that US President Bill Clinton had sent a "positive and encouraging" message to Syrian President Hafez Assad after being rejected.

He said Clinton expressed his interest in renewing the Syrian-Israeli peace talks.

However, Shara said that the negotiations with Israel will not resume "tomorrow," but at the beginning of the year, since the US administration must address numerous domestic problems before it can deal with foreign

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Iran said willing to help find Arad

ELDAD BECK PARIS

IRAN is willing to assist in efforts to locate Israeli Air Force navigator Ron Arad, who is believed to have been held in captivity since his plane was forced down in southern Lebanon 10 years ago, an Iranian source said here Friday.

Iran is disposed to do anything it can to help find Arad, "just like anyone else," the source said. "It is not a political problem, but a humanitarian one. There is a man who is missing."

The issue of Arad was raised in talks Thursday between French Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette and Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Vaezi.

Such talks are held every six months, according to a French diplomatic source, and are part of the "critical dialogue" which France and other European Community nations conduct with Iran on bilateral issues and on the situation in the Middle East.

France is trying to contribute to the efforts of other countries, such as Germany, to discover Arad's whereabouts. "We are trying to have a useful role," said the source.

Among other questions dis-

cussed with Vaezi were the Middle East peace process, and the situations in south Lebanon and the Persian Gulf. The French called on the Iranians to play a positive role in the advancement of the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Paris believes that Teheran could use its influence to restrain Hizbullah in Lebanon, as it did during the negotiations that ended Operation Grapes of Wrath there in April. Contacts between France and Iran enabled the cease-fire agreement to be concluded and the monitoring committee to be set up, the source said.

THE ISRAEL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Concert program for 10.11-30.11 Ticket sales for the 60th Jubilee Festival in December 1996 continues Jun'ichi Hirokami, conductor Gil Shaham, violinist Daniel Shalit: Suite for strings Dvorak: Violin concerto Mendelssohn: Symphony no. 4 ("Italian")

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Ross: No better relationship than with Christopher

LAST spring, as the US tried to broker a cease-fire in Operation Grapes of Wrath, special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross got an insight into what he calls Warren Christopher's "strong sense of purpose."

"Bringing that to a close, putting together a monitoring group as a result of that, the understanding that was worked out - it was a pretty intense week of going back and forth on a very finite issue," Ross said in an interview Friday.

"It took a lot of patience and persistence to do that. But that was something that he was determined to resolve, and he did."

The day after Christopher officially announced he would be leaving the State Department, Ross echoed President Clinton's tribute to Christopher as a man possessing an overriding sense of decency.

Ross and Christopher developed a closeness and mutual trust borne by their more than 30 trips to the region in the past four years in pursuit of Middle East peace.

Ross's own future is unclear, at least until Christopher's replacement is chosen. But it is assumed by many here that since he is also a trusted adviser to President Clinton, Ross will remain under a new secretary of state.

Christopher retained Ross as a special adviser following the

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

ascension of the Clinton administration in 1993, and later appointed him to oversee US policy on the peace process.

"I couldn't imagine a better relationship with a secretary of state than I've had with Secretary Christopher," said Ross, who was also extremely close to secretary of state James Baker during the Bush administration.

"He's always been tremendously supportive of everything I've done, a leader whose commitment comes through over and over again, someone who has always been there when I need something. I never had to worry about getting it from him. And he was always available."

"When the secretary of state has the kind of commitment and involvement that he had, it means you can always bring whatever it is that's required to his attention, and he would always bring it to the attention of the President."

Christopher's retirement means the loss of a "very deep believer in the pursuit of Middle East peace ... a very good friend of Israel and [a] thoroughly decent man," Ross said.

He dismissed critics who painted Christopher's patience as a fault, who pointed to the time last

April when Syrian President Hafez Assad kept Christopher and his team waiting in Damascus while the Israeli and Lebanese refugee problem grew.

"He could have reacted to the snub by leaving, in which case the violence would have continued to a large degree. Both peoples being forced out of their homes would have gone on with no end in sight," Ross said.

"And he could have taken it personally and washed his hands of it, with the consequence of a lot of suffering. Or he could have kept his eye on the ball." Despite not having seen through the peace process to an Israeli-Syrian deal and a comprehensive regional agreement, Christopher will go down in history as having helped construct a "basic pathway" to peace, Ross said.

The two will make one last trip to the region - for Tuesday's regional economic conference in Cairo - before Christopher leaves Washington in January for his California home.

"[It's] been a tremendously good relationship in every sense of the word: professionally, personally," Ross said. "I value him as a secretary of state and as a boss, and I value him as a friend. He's someone who, regardless of where he is, will always just be a telephone call away."

Jerusalem Business Conference opens

THE nearly 2,500 participants attending last night's opening of the annual Jerusalem Business Conference, at the International Conference Center, observed a moment of silence in memory of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Israel Manufacturers Association president Dan Propper recalled that

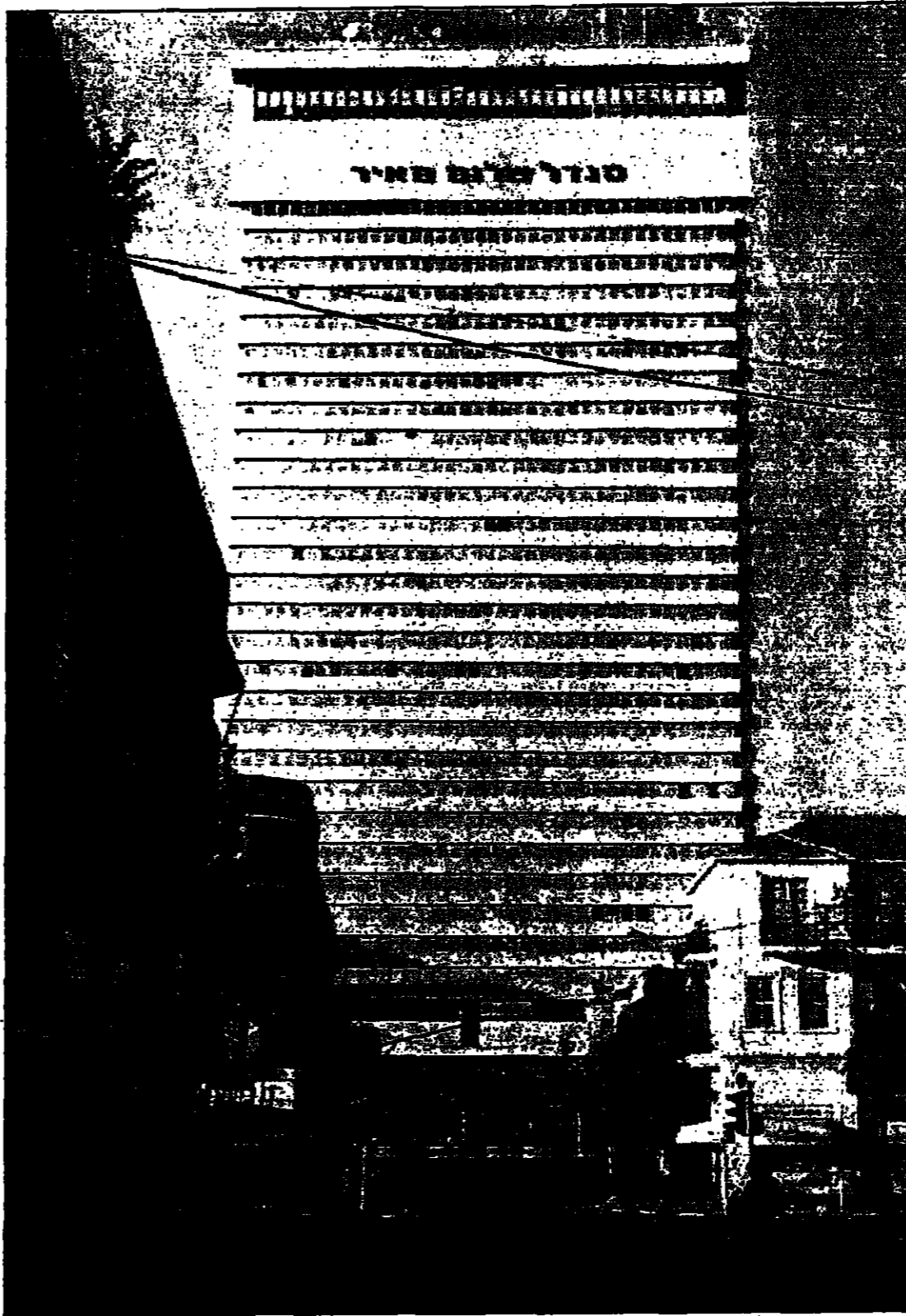
GREER FAY CASHMAN

a year ago the conference had been addressed by Rabin, who had not lived to see his dream for a peaceful and prosperous Middle East.

Keynote speaker Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told the gathering, "Israel will pursue the

quest for peace and we will achieve it not only with the Palestinians, but also with Syria."

Netanyahu spoke about the government's plans for privatization, reiterating that, "Above all, what we now want to do is to privatize and deregulate. We believe in competition."



Security forces continue to keep the part of Rehov Herzl by Tel Aviv's Shalom Tower closed to traffic, amid reports that Islamic Jihad is planning to stage a terror attack there. That and other security measures, such as roadblocks around the Dan Region, are expected to continue today. (AP)

Swiss official blasts D'Amato

BERN, Switzerland (AP) - The head of the Swiss government's newly appointed task force on Holocaust assets accused US Senator Alphonse D'Amato on Friday of unfairly rushing to judgment.

In a separate development, a special committee formed by Jewish groups and Swiss banks concluded that the banks' estimate of possible unclaimed Jewish assets was as much as \$3.2 billion too low. That would put the total amount Swiss banks say they have in unclaimed Holocaust assets at \$35.2m.

Thomas G. Borer, a Foreign Ministry lawyer who leads the new Swiss task force, criticized D'Amato, a New York Republican, in a letter for "drawing conclusions before the facts have been established."

D'Amato's office said it had yet to receive the letter, but he again criticized the Swiss.

"The Swiss government continues to drag its feet as it relates to this matter," D'Amato said. "That's unacceptable. We will continue to pursue the facts."

D'Amato chairs the Senate Banking Committee, which is investigating the issue of Holocaust assets. He has said that Switzerland profited in numerous ways from World War II and that Swiss banks had failed to hand over the assets of Holocaust victims to their heirs.

"I must firmly reject your allegation that the Swiss government has a 'head in the sand' attitude and is attempting to 'stall the issue,'" said Borer, whose task force was set up last month by the Swiss government under international pressure.

He also attacked D'Amato for releasing selected documents from US World War II archives out of their historical context, which "constitutes sensationalism and throws doubt upon the seriousness of purpose."

A confidential audit agreement obtained by The Associated Press in Washington this week disclosed that Swiss banks had found perhaps 10 percent more money that they thought might have belonged to Holocaust victims.

In January 1996 the bankers said they had found about \$32m. That could have belonged to Jewish families who deposited assets abroad shortly before or during World War II.

The document, prepared by the independent committee former Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker heads, said that since then "some banks have identified additional accounts and amounts of foreign customers."

The Swiss bankers association has refused to comment on the memorandum.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Closure of territories eased

The closure of the territories was to be eased at 4 a.m. this morning, the IDF Spokesman announced last night. Entry is to be permitted to 35,000 married workers over the age of 30. The Spokesman said 20,000 of the workers would be from the West Bank and the remainder from the Gaza Strip. In addition, the Karni crossing between Israel and Gaza is to be open to imports and exports without restriction, and merchandise will also be allowed to be transferred from Gaza to Jordan, the spokesman said. *Itim*

Body of Dimona reactor engineer found

The body of Yaron Daniel, an engineer at the Dimona nuclear reactor who disappeared over seven months ago, was found yesterday in an advanced state of decay in his car near Makhtesh Ramon. The body was discovered by an IDF patrol.

The circumstances of his death are not clear, nor is it known where he spent the months since his disappearance. *Itim*

Nazareth man stabbed to death

A Nazareth resident was stabbed to death last night in a feud between two families. Apparently one family wanted to put an electrical service box on the other family's land. Police have arrested five suspects. *Itim*

Israeli was on downed Nigerian plane

An Israeli citizen was on the Nigerian aircraft which crashed Thursday on an internal flight to Lagos, the Nigerian Embassy reported to the Foreign Ministry. No details of the person's identity were available at press time.

The search for the 141 passengers and crew members continued last night. The aircraft, a Boeing 727, left from Port Harcourt and radio contact was lost with the Nigerian capital shortly after take-off. *Batsheva Tsur*

Two bodies found

Civil Guard members discovered a body in a field east of Kiryat Malachi while patrolling yesterday morning. Police were alerted and came to the scene. Forensic specialists transferred the body to the Abu Kabir Forensics Institute. Police said the man was apparently murdered during a criminal dispute. Lachish police ruled out the possibility that the body is that of missing soldier Sharon Edri.

South of Haifa, a passerby found a skull and bones yesterday, and the remains also were transferred to Abu Kabir. Haifa police said they are searching for four missing people and the remains could belong to one of them. *Itim*

SOLDIER

(Continued from Page 1)

while he was working in fields near Yataf. Levine stressed that the IDF and SLA gunmen had not fired at the village itself or any residential areas but only at the points in open land where the Hizbullah firing originated.

According to the reports from Lebanon, IAF helicopter gunships were also in action, supporting troops on the ground, and warplanes flew sorties over the region, although without firing any rockets or dropping bombs.

On Friday morning, two roadside bombs were detonated alongside SLA troops while they were on operational duties in the Jezzine enclave. There were no casualties in that incident.

According to some observers, Hizbullah will likely continue to intensify its activities against IDF and SLA troops in the security zone, especially now that the US elections are over.

An upsurge in operations, especially directed against the IDF instead of the SLA, would also serve Syria's interests, provided the fighting is contained within southern Lebanon.

Levine noted that the Syrians had an interest in hitting Israel in Lebanon. Sometimes they restrain Hizbullah and other times encourage the extremist Shi'ite organization, depending on their interests. He added that in his opinion Hizbullah will continue its attacks.

BAR-ILAN

(Continued from Page 1)

and the Ramot road, throwing trash onto the road and stones at police. A police officer was lightly wounded, the spokesman said.

Last night, a border policeman was hit in the head with a stone just off Rehov Bar-Ilan, and had to be hospitalized, but was in good condition.

Two killed on roads

TWO people were killed on the roads yesterday.

A man was killed last night when his car collided with a truck near Hadera. A Romanian worker was hit by a car and fatally injured in Tel Aviv last night while he was crossing the street. A Magen David Adom ambulance took him to Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer, where he died of his wounds.

Another pedestrian was seriously injured in the head yesterday morning in a hit-and-run accident on Tel Aviv's Allenby Street. Ambulances took the 18-year-old Holon resident to Ichilov Hospital. Police are searching for the driver.

In another hit-and-run accident, Ashkelon police are searching for the driver of a blue car who hit and lightly injured a 15-year-old girl there on Friday. Police request that anyone who witnessed the incident contact them.

Last week 13 people were killed on the nation's roads, bringing the number of people killed this year in traffic-related accidents to 511. *(Itim)*

CLINTON

(Continued from Page 1)

the public in Hebron, and we will put them in some corner. If we have to, we will order their administrative detention."

He said that though security officials did not believe that the extremists would shoot at soldiers or policemen, "We are preparing for that possibility, too."

Kahalani added that the redeployment could take place shortly after reaching an agreement with the Palestinians.

"Much of the army is no longer in the city and Hebron's Jewish residents will not feel much of an actual difference between the situation now and that which will prevail after the redeployment," he said.

But Meretz MK Yossi Sarid said in a statement that a "disaster" is imminent in Hebron and that administrative detentions would not help prevent it.

"Everyone knows that there will soon be a disaster in Hebron, but no one is taking the tough and serious steps necessary to prevent it. The murderer Goldstein, may his name and his grave be erased, was a teacher to not just a few students in that awful place.

"Cursed be the day it was decided to establish the settlement in Hebron. Security arrangements won't help and administrative detentions won't help. What will help is to evacuate the settlement from there."

Labor faction chairman MK Ra'anan Cohen yesterday called on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to stop wasting time and to come to an agreement on the Hebron redeployment before it is too late.

"The prime minister, whether deliberately or not, is inviting pressure from the extremists in Hebron with every day that passes with no agreement and no redeployment. Every passing day strengthens the extremist settlers' belief that an agreement will not be signed, and as a result there has begun an escalation that will eventually lead the settlers and the security forces into a confrontation with the Palestinians. Mr. Netanyahu is holding a hot potato in his hand and he should act firmly before it is too late."

With deep sorrow and pain we announce the passing of

AVIVA WARSHA

née Kiev
who bravely battled a serious illness.

The funeral will leave from our home in Kiryat Ono, Rehov Rothschild 13, today, Sunday, November 10, 1996 (28 Marsheshvan, 5757) at 2 p.m. for Hayarkon Cemetery. Transportation is available. The ceremony will begin at 3 p.m. Shiva will also be at Rehov Rothschild 13, Kiryat Ono.

Mourning by:
Husband: Avigdor
Children: Mira and Dror Lavi
Gadi and Mira Warsha
Grandchildren: Adi, Roy, Oti
Families: Warsha, Kiev (USA), Lavi and Carmel

B'nai B'rith International extends its deep condolences to

Avigdor Warsha

International Vice-President of B'nai B'rith and to the Warsha family on the untimely death of their wife, mother and grandmother

AVIVA

May her memory be a blessing

Tommy P. Baer, International President
Dr. Sidney Clearfield, Executive Vice-President

Our deepest condolences to

Avigdor and the Warsha family

on the untimely passing of

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Our deep condolences to

Avigdor Warsha, Gadi and Mira

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(née Lichtenstaedter)

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family.

Rosa Strygler, President
Ulla Merkin, Chairman

BOARD OF EXAMINATION FOR MEDICAL LICENSE FOR INTERNSHIP

According to the State of Israel's Physicians Regulations 1988, the examination for license for internship will be held at 08:00 a.m., on December 31 1996, at Ganei Hata'aruha, Bvd. Rokach, Tel Aviv.

The examination can be taken in the following languages: Hebrew, English, Rumanian, Spanish, Italian, Russian

The examinees are asked to present their original Identity Card plus a photo of the Identity Card.

Prof. Joseph Schenker
Chairman of the Board of Examination
According to State Regulations 1988

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Hunger grips Zairians as well as refugees; Rwanda agrees to neutral force

DAVID GUTTENFELDER
GOMA, Zaire

INTERNATIONAL aid agencies made preparations yesterday to move food and medicine into a border area crammed with more than one million hungry refugees in case the UN Security Council approves a relief operation.

After the United States balked at immediate intervention in Zaire, the Security Council urged countries interested in mounting a relief operation to report back as soon as possible.

The humanitarian mission would be aimed at delivering food and medical care to the more than one million Rwandan Hutu and Zairian refugees who have fled fighting between Zairian rebels and the Zairian army.

The refugees were cut off from outside aid when the rebel army drove Zairian government troops away from border region. Aid agencies fear the refugees may already be dying in large numbers.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees and other aid agencies aren't even sure where all the refugees are. The British Broadcasting Corp. reported yesterday that armed Hutu militiamen - who fled with other Hutus in mid-1994 after slaughtering at least half a million Rwandan Tutsis - are using the refugees as shields for protection from advancing Zairian rebels, who include local Tutsis.

In Florence, Italy, Italian Defense Minister Beniamino Andreana was quoted as telling reporters yesterday that Italian troops who might be sent to Zaire were getting vaccinated just in case.

Also yesterday, the French Foreign Ministry urged the United States to join the force. France has been pushing for a quick international response to the crisis, but has said it doesn't want to act alone.

Spanish Minister Eduardo Serra Rexach said, "the chaos in Africa needs a response well-defined on the part of the Western nations." Rexach, quoted by the Italian news agency AGI, was in Florence, where the defense ministers from France, Italy, Spain and Portugal were gathered for a ceremony.

South African President Nelson Mandela said he will assist any peacekeeping force once leaders in the Great Lakes region tell him what they want.

And in Brussels, Belgium, the European Union Commission criticized the UN's delay. "UN Security Council representatives should keep in mind that the thou-



A child plays alone at a refugee camp over the weekend in Kisoro, Uganda, near the border with Zaire. About 8,000 refugees from Zaire have crossed into Uganda to escape the fighting.

sands of refugees dying every day in Mugunga cannot spend the weekend in Long Island, as they do," EU Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Emma Bonino said Saturday, referring to the residential area outside New York City.

Meanwhile, a boat packed with Zairian refugees fleeing to Tanzania capsized in Lake Tanganyika, killing an estimated 400 people, a Tanzanian newspaper reported yesterday.

Kabila, published in the "lake port town of Kisoro," quoted refugees arriving there as saying the boat from Uvira, 150 kilometers northwest across the lake, was overloaded and went down in high winds Friday.

An estimated 12,000 Zairian refugees, including some soldiers, have arrived in Kisoro since the fighting erupted three weeks ago. Zaire's ailing president has broken his public silence, telling a

leftist French newspaper he will return to his country to "take things into my own hands" - but not for several weeks.

"I sincerely believe, from all I have heard, that people are waiting for me," President Mobutu Sese Seko was quoted as saying in an interview published yesterday in the newspaper Liberation.

"I don't think that while I am alive, the country can fall apart." (AP)

Bosnian Serbs sack Mladic; West waits for army to act

PETER GRESTE
BELGRADE

THE Bosnian Serb government has sacked alleged war criminal Gen. Ratko Mladic, but Western powers adopted a "wait-and-see" stance, saying they wanted confirmation the Serb army would comply with the order.

Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic announced she had replaced Mladic and other top generals in a shakeup of the top brass "due to the international community's well-known stand."

The military command was reported to have met to discuss the announcement - which one general described as an illegal decree - but the outcome of their talks was not immediately known.

Reversed by many Serbs as a national hero and reviled as a mass murderer by his former Muslim and Croat foes, the bull-necked and plain-speaking professional soldier has been indicted by the UN war crimes tribunal.

With former Serb President Radovan Karadzic, Mladic heads the list of people wanted in The Hague. The Dayton peace agreement that ended the 43-month-long war in Bosnia stipulated that Mladic must step down and face the war crimes charges.

Maj.-Gen. Pero Colic told local Bosnian Serb television after his appointment as Mladic's replacement. "I think we will find a common language and cooperate, and that the BSA [Bosnian Serb Army] general staff will abide by the Dayton agreement."

Defense Minister Milan

Ninkovic told the television the army general staff headquarters would move to the Bosnian Serb capital of Pale, from Han Pijesak.

Political analysts saw this as a significant move to undercut Mladic's authority. Han Pijesak was his stronghold and the army headquarters throughout the Bosnian war.

Western powers reacted cautiously to Mladic's dismissal.

"We don't know what it is going to mean in substantive terms until the next couple of days have played out," said Maj. Simon Haselock, spokesman for the NATO-led peace force in Bosnia.

Haselock said NATO was still trying to confirm whether the Bosnian Serb army - locked in a long-running dispute with its civilian authorities - would obey Plavsic's order.

"As of this moment however we have not received any official notification of changes [in the military leadership]," he said.

The Bosnian Serb defense council - primarily a political rather than military body - endorsed the appointment of Colic's appointment as the new military chief.

The Bosnian Serb news agency SRNA quoted the Supreme Defense Council as saying it backed the decision by Plavsic to appoint Colic and Maj.-Gen. Dragan Josipovic as his deputy.

The council comprises the Serb political leadership as well as military representatives, but analysts say it does not reflect the opinions of the military command.

Colic told Western envoys on Saturday he was in charge, according to international mediator Carl Bildt.

"My people have met with the new commander and the new deputy commander," Bildt told Reuters.

"They do exist and they claim they are in command," he said.

Plavsic's statement said: "I regret that because of the well-known stand of the international community, I cannot name Gen. Ratko Mladic the Chief of the Army headquarters."

She thanked Mladic and other officers "for all they have done for the Serb people" during the war in Bosnia.

Most of the senior Bosnian Serb officers met in their headquarters in Han Pijesak yesterday, and the base was closed to journalists.

Radio Netherlands quoted an interview with Mladic's deputy, Gen. Manojlo Milovanovic, who dismissed Plavsic's decree as illegal, and said Mladic remained in command.

The international community has long campaigned for the removal of the 52-year-old general, accusing him of directing the siege of Sarajevo and overseeing the massacre of some 8,000 unarmed Muslims from Srebrenica. (Reuters)

Body parts litter Nigerian plane crash scene

EJIRIN, Nigeria (Reuters) - Villagers used canoes yesterday to recover bodies from a lagoon where a Nigerian Boeing 727 airliner crashed, killing all 143 people on board, witnesses said.

Aviation Development Company (ADC), the operator of the aircraft, said in a statement that there were 143 people on board against its first statement putting the figure at 141.

"The aircraft had on board 134 passengers and nine crew members," said the statement signed by ADC chairman Captain Augustine Okon.

It appealed for divers, underwater metal detectors and sonar boats to help in the search for the bodies and the plane's hull.

Pieces of the plane, which crashed on Thursday in mangrove jungle 40 kms northeast of Lagos, littered the lagoon.

ADC, which provoked anger among hundreds of relatives of the victims for not releasing the passenger list, said it had given the list to the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN).

"You have to prove you are a relation of someone on the list and we'll confirm it to you," a FAAN spokesman said.

Flight ADC086, from the southeastern oil city of Port Harcourt, lost contact minutes before it was due to land in Lagos on Thursday evening.

The wreckage was found late on Friday.

In a broadcast yesterday, military ruler General Sani Abacha declared a day of mourning and said a committee would be set up to look into the cause.

Western diplomats said there were many foreigners on board, including six or seven British nationals, a German, an Italian, an Israeli and an American. A prominent Costa Rican lawyer was among the victims.

"There is unconfirmed information of two or three more Britons," one diplomat said, adding that some of the families in Britain had been informed.

The US aircraft makers Boeing said the plane was a 727-200 initially delivered to an unidentified customer in 1969. As of the end of 1994 it had 63,500 flight hours and had made 43,000 flights.

"We've had no official word from either the Nigerian government or the airline," Boeing spokesman Dick Schleich said in Seattle on Friday.

The ADC statement said: "We have notified the manufacturers of the aircraft, the Boeing Corporation as well as the manufacturers of the engine, Pratt and Whitney. They will play a crucial role in the next stage of development of Flight 086."

The crash is the worst in Nigeria since September 1992 when a C-130 transport plane went down in swamps near Lagos, killing 173 people, many senior military officers.

Several crashes have occurred since. Flying in the vast West African country has become more hazardous as an economic downturn has left infrastructure, including landing facilities, in ruins.

Abacha said the government was determined to improve aviation safety but added: "Accidents by their nature occur even in the best of systems."

TWA crash families doubt Salinger missile theory

STRASBOURG, France (Reuters)

A group representing families of the 230 people killed in the crash of TWA Flight 800 expressed scepticism yesterday about ex-White House adviser Pierre Salinger's charges that a US missile shot it down.

"Pierre Salinger is referring to documents which appeared on the Internet at the end of August and which were widely analyzed by investigators without finding any proof," said Jose Cremades, head of the relatives' association.

Cremades, chairing the first general assembly of the group after the July crash of the Paris-bound flight off New York, said he spoke to Salinger by telephone yesterday and felt he had sown doubt in Salinger's mind about the missile theory.

But he told a news conference he asked Salinger, press spokesman for the late president John F. Kennedy and later Paris bureau chief for the ABC television network to "continue his inquiry."

Salinger said on Thursday that a

US Navy missile accidentally shot down the jet, killing all aboard. The US Federal Bureau of Investigation and the US Defense Department have both insisted there is no evidence of a missile.

Cremades said Salinger also quoted testimony from an unnamed passenger on an Air France jet that Salinger said took off seven minutes after Flight 800 from New York and abruptly swerved.

The passenger asked for an explanation for the sudden change of course from the pilot, whom he said he avoided a missile.

A missile, a bomb or a mechanical fault have all been suggested as possible causes for the crash, which occurred just days before the opening of the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

On Friday, Salinger said he got the documents about the missile, which he initially said came from a US Secret Service agent, second-hand from an unnamed Frenchman. And he conceded the information had been on the

Internet for two months. Cremades said that, in his telephone conversation, Salinger again cited sources in the French secret services in contact with American colleagues as a source of his information.

The association - which groups relatives of victims from nations including the US, France, Spain, Italy, Britain, Norway, and Finland - said it was demanding to take part in the official probe, which Cremades branded "opaque."

He said it regretted that "the representatives of TWA and Boeing take part but not representatives of the victims." He said the group would seek the backing of governments in victims' nations to put pressure on the US authorities to help.

"Investigators have found 95 percent of the wreck. We think that specialists ought to have a precise idea of the catastrophe. We understand that they're waiting for proof before concluding the inquiry but we'd like to be informed by our own experts," he said.

Sinatra released from hospital

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Frank Sinatra was released from the hospital yesterday after eight days of treatment for what was said to be a pinched nerve.

A Sinatra spokeswoman, Susan Reynolds, refused to comment on his ailment, saying only that he was heading home after being released from Cedars-Sinai Medical Center by his doctor.

"He is very happy to be home and again thanks everyone throughout the world for the wonderful get-well wishes he has been receiving," Reynolds said.

Sinatra checked into the hospital November 1 for treatment of a pinched nerve. But various news reports have said that the 80-year-old entertainer is suffering from more serious ailments.

On Thursday night, KCBS-TV, citing an unidentified hospital source, repeated its account that Sinatra was being treated for pneumonia and heart failure, and that his private hospital room resembled an intensive care unit.

A hospital nurse told KNBC-TV that medication for pneumonia prompted an irregular heartbeat

that needed to be monitored. But Friday night, a family friend told KCAL-TV that reports of an ailing Sinatra were exaggerated.

Meanwhile, Sinatra's wife, Barbara, canceled plans to attend a board meeting of the Sinatra Invitational celebrity golf tournament and charity fund-raiser, which she and her husband sponsor.

In Hoboken, New Jersey, the entertainer's hometown, city officials will today unveil a sidewalk plaque in front of the remains of his birthplace. His birthday is December 12.

Novel beats astronomers to key to universe

LONDON (Reuters) - Scientists searching for one of the fundamental keys to the universe found they had been beaten to the answer by the humorous cult novel *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, and the answer was 42.

In the British novel and radio serial by Douglas Adams, an alien race programs a computer called Deep Thought to provide the ultimate answer to understanding life and the universe.

In the novel, seven and a half million years later Deep Thought comes back with the result - 42.

Astronomers at Britain's Cambridge University took a little less time - three years - to calculate the Hubble Constant that determines the age of the universe. But the answer was the same.

"It caused quite a few laughs when we arrived at the figure 42, because we're all great fans of *The Hitchhiker's Guide*," Dr. Keith Grange, one of the team of Cambridge scientists who worked on the project, said on Friday. "Everyone thought it was quite fun"

The scientists were using a new technique to determine the value of the Hubble Constant, a source of constant controversy among astronomers. The Constant is a measure of the rate at which galaxies are receding from each other as a result of the Big Bang that created the universe.

Knowing how quickly everything is flying apart can enable scientists to work out the universe's age.

This has presented a problem, since the large Hubble Constant values estimated by some experts would mean that the universe is younger than its oldest stars. The Cambridge team put the age of the universe at between 14 and 16 billion years.

Grange said the answer was unlikely to remain 42, however. The team plans to observe more galaxy clusters and take an average of a larger number of measurements.

"After averaging out all these values we'll have a relatively accurate answer," he said. "It may be 42, but it could be anything between 30 and 55."

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Clinton names Bowles as top aide

US thrown off UN money panel

WASHINGTON (Reuter) - President Bill Clinton took the first step to reshape his administration for a second term on Friday by naming North Carolina businessman and former top White House aide Erskine Bowles as his chief of staff.

Announcing Bowles' appointment in a news conference, Clinton also said he wanted to work with Republicans on a broad agenda since the verdict of Tuesday's election was that the people want the country governed from "the vital center."

"On Tuesday, our people voted

for the ideas of the vital American center," Clinton said. "The American people want us to fulfill our responsibilities as Democrats, Republicans and independents second, and Americans first, to set aside our differences and join hands to make the most of this moment."

"I want us to forge a partnership to produce results for the American people," he added.

While Clinton, a Democrat, was easily re-elected, voters left both houses of Congress in the hands of the Republicans, meaning the parties must collaborate on any major

legislation.

Bowles, who replaces former Congressman Leon Panetta, was taking on what many view as the second-most-powerful job in the White House, controlling access to the president and taking responsibility for much of the agenda that Clinton sets.

Clinton gave Bowles a taste of just how broad that agenda may be in his news conference, covering topics from reforming the Social Security system to bringing peace to the Middle East and Northern Ireland.

The president specifically cited

balancing the budget and reforming the campaign finance system, much criticized during the past election for the huge amounts of money that flowed to the political parties, as priorities for his second term.

Before announcing Bowles' appointment, Clinton lavishly praised the outgoing Panetta, who has decided to return to his native California and was considering making a run at the governorship of that state in 1998.

Although there is always some turnover among top-level officials after a US election, the number and speed of the departures under

Clinton has been unusual.

In addition to Panetta, six Cabinet officers have made known their plans to leave since the election: the secretaries of State, Defense, Commerce, Labor, Energy and Transportation.

In another gesture to the Republicans, Clinton said he is looking for members of that party to join his cabinet. US officials have suggested that former Maine Sen. William Cohen could be tapped for director of the CIA and former New Jersey Governor Tom Kean may be picked for secretary of Education.

UNITED NATIONS (Reuter) - The United States was voted off a key UN financial committee for the first time on Friday, a reflection of countries' anger at Washington's \$1.4 billion debt to the world body, US officials said.

Instead, France and New Zealand were given spots on the prestigious 16-member Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), the first legislative step in formulating the UN's \$1.3 billion annual budget.

Diplomats said it was the first time the United States, which is supposed to pay 25 percent of the UN budget, was not given a seat on the panel of financial experts.

France received 117 votes followed by New Zealand with 116 and the United States with 103. French envoys said they did not campaign against Washington,

assuming it would get one of the two vacant seats for which it was eligible automatically.

Asked why the US lost, a US official said, "Three things: money, money and money. The resentment of US arrears to the United Nations was clearly the decisive factor."

"The lack of our participation will inevitably diminish the committee," she added.

The United States owes the world body about \$1.4 billion for dues and peacekeeping, more than half of the UN's entire debt. Japanese and Western Europeans, who pay the bulk of UN costs, have been openly critical of US demands for reforms when it failed to pay its debts. In addition, US influence has waned because of severe cuts in international non-military aid programs around the world.

Hillary's role unclear, husband says

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Clinton said on Friday that he and his wife have been too exhausted by the electoral campaign to discuss what her role might be during the next four years.

At a news conference, Clinton was asked if first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton had been told by White House special counsel Kenneth Starr that she was a target of the investigation into the first family's business and political relationships in Arkansas.

"No," he said tersely. "Not to my knowledge."

Asked about the toll of the Starr inquiry and many congressional investigations of administration conduct, Clinton said, "It is just part of being in public life today."

During the campaign, Clinton raised the possibility that he would ask his wife to oversee administration welfare policy. But he appeared to retreat from that on Friday, saying he may have been misunderstood.

"We've been too tired to talk about it," he said of a second-term role for the first lady. He predicted she would continue her advocacy on children's and education issues.

Jurors in Simpson civil case affected by autopsy photos

SANTA MONICA, California (AP) - Jurors in the civil trial of O.J. Simpson winced Friday as they looked at gory autopsy photos and heard testimony that Nicole Brown Simpson died a quick, violent death that likely left little blood on her attacker.

Three female jurors appeared particularly upset at the color photographs on two evidence boards. One woman, an alternate, who sat less than a meter from the boards, removed her glasses and wiped her eyes with a tissue.

Others occasionally averted their eyes but took copious notes. Last week, when crime scene photos were shown, one alternate juror became ill and was taken to a hospital, complaining of stress. He was excused from the panel.

The photos were shown during testimony from Werner Spitz, a forensic pathologist who theorized Ms. Simpson died after a rapid series of stabs from an attacker standing behind her.

O.J. Simpson, a former American football star, was found innocent of murdering his ex-wife and her friend Ronald Goldman, who were found dead outside Ms. Simpson's home in June 1992. The victims' families are now suing Simpson in a civil

trial for compensation.

Spitz did not conduct the autopsies on Ms. Simpson or Goldman, and he did not testify in Simpson's murder trial last year.

The pathologist is receiving \$300 an hour from the plaintiffs and based his opinions on a review of the photos and police and coroner reports.

Spitz testified that the killer stabbed Goldman from behind, and the body shielded the attacker from the blood.

Spitz's testimony was designed to bolster the plaintiff contention that Simpson committed the killings very quickly, leaving enough time to get home for a waiting limo ride to airport, and to explain why Simpson would not have been covered in more blood.

No members of the Brown family were in the courtroom. Simpson, who went home Thursday complaining of being sick, also was absent.

Goldman's father and sister were in the courtroom. They sat with their heads down during the testimony but couldn't see the pictures, which were directed away from the audience and toward the jury box.



Kim Goldman, sister of murder victim Ron Goldman, is visibly upset while leaving the LA County Superior Court in Santa Monica, Calif. on Friday. (AP)

Free speech protest leader Savio dies

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - Mario Savio, the campus radical who became a symbol of the 1960s free-speech movement from atop a police car, has died at age 53. Savio, who had a history of heart problems, collapsed last Saturday night and went into a coma. He died Wednesday at Palm Drive Hospital in Sebastopol, 95 km. north of San Francisco.

Friends described him as a brilliant orator and compelling voice for student protest. "In the '60s, he was a powerful symbol of how an ordinary person could stand up and make history," said Democratic state Sen. Tom Hayden, a one-time fellow radical. "He symbolized the possibilities in all of us, to resist becoming cogs in somebody's machine."

Savio rose to fame as the voice of the free-speech movement at the University of California at Berkeley in 1964, when he stood on a campus police car following the arrest of a student for political activity.

Swiss bankers and Jewish groups searching for Holocaust victims' unclaimed wealth in Switzerland could be heading for a showdown if - as many bankers expect - the latest hunt for lost riches turns up only paltry sums.

Several Swiss bankers say privately they believe Switzerland was not the big magnet for Jewish wealth before World War II that groups like the World Jewish Congress (WJC) have made it out to be.

Much of the money that made it here has already been quietly withdrawn by victims' relatives unwilling to share it with family members, or by friends equipped with power of attorney that gave them control over the funds, they say.

This is at odds with barbed allegations from skeptical Jewish groups and a US senator that Swiss banks may silently hold billions of dollars in wealth left by Hitler's victims and have stone-walled relatives trying to track it down.

As uproar mounts, many bankers see these attacks on Switzerland - made with persistent regularity - as part of a campaign orchestrated by jealous rivals to undermine Swiss banks' successful expansion in Europe and the United States.

Some are even waiting for the anonymous people believed to be pulling the strings from behind the scenes to come forward and offer to call off the attacks - for a price.

Swiss worried about showdown with Jewish groups over funds

MICHAEL SHIELDS
ZURICH

"This is not about shedding light on history. This is about money," said a senior Swiss banker. "The question is from whom [such a demand would come] and for how much," the banker said, without elaborating.

Miriam Stern, assistant secretary-general of the World Jewish Congress, labeled such thinking "complete bullshit...I don't know how they even get this idea," he told Reuters from telephone from Brussels.

Stern, who said he had dealt full-time with the emotional issue of Holocaust accounts for 18 months, said Jewish leaders had made it clear they were not after money but after the truth in tracking down any lost assets.

"Mr. [WJC President Edgard] Bronfman has said it over and over clearly. This is not a question of money. It is purely a question of transparency. We want to know what really happened," Stern said, insisting wartime documents now emerging from archives were driving the search.

Swiss bankers argue it would have been very hard for European Jews scared of Hitler's growing power to transfer their wealth to Switzerland in the 1930s.

Even if Jews decided to hide their wealth abroad, they probably would have favored Britain or the US as a safe haven rather than Switzerland which could have been steam-rollered by Nazi aggression, they say.

Bankers acknowledge neutral Switzerland's solid banks had a reputation as pillars of discretion, but they add that practical problems kept them out of reach for most would-be depositors.

Carlo Jagmetti, Switzerland's ambassador to Washington, has dismissed as wildly exaggerated the figure of \$20 billion that Holocaust survivors are trying to recover from Swiss banks in a class-action lawsuit filed through US courts.

"What is of course amazing is the figure," Jagmetti told reporters.

Bankers' searches of their records this year turned up 38.7 million Swiss francs (\$30.77 million) deposited by foreign clients before 1945 and whose owners have not been heard from in the past 10 years. Only some of these may have belonged to Holocaust victims, bankers say.

The head of Switzerland's biggest bank has dismissed as "persons" the amount of money involved.

As the search gets under way, a Swiss banking ombudsman is coordinating some 1,000 claims that have been submitted, but the WJC has criticized him for failing to turn up any funds so far.

An independent panel set up by May by Jewish groups and Swiss bankers and chaired by former US central bank chief Paul Volcker, soon set to hire auditors to check the banks' records for unclaimed wealth that may have escaped two previous sweeps.

Its search will take at least a year, Volcker has said.

Parliament is also set to approve approval in December by historians and experts on the lift strict banking secrecy laws. Any discover were pronounced a fact, many depressive d... from divider with a...

Voters abolish last 'dry' Sunday in Wales

LONDON (AP) - For the first time in 115 years, every pub in Wales will be able to open today.

Referendums in two districts on Wednesday abolished the last of the Sunday "dry" laws.

Wales was completely dry on Sundays after the 1881 Sunday Closing Act. But with each referendum, which was held every seven years since 1961, the licensing laws have been loosened.

Some clergymen in North Wales campaigned against pub Sundays before the referendum but were heavily defeated in the poll.

In Gwynedd, 24,325 "wet" voters swamped the "dry" vote of 9,829. In Rhondda, Cynon, Taff, in South Wales, 24,863 people voted in favor of Sunday opening, while 3,427 were against.

"It's an historic and overwhelmingly decisive final vote on an issue which has been part of Welsh life for generations," said hotelier David Baird-Murray, chairman of the Seven Day Opening Council.

"But Welsh pub, church and chapel can live in harmony from now on. It's also good for jobs and the economy because tourists were often confused about which pubs were open and which were closed on Sundays."

Robert Jones, landlord of The Ship at Portmadog, celebrated the decision as a business boost. "I was losing 12 months' trade every seven years because of the Sunday opening ban. It was bad enough for business, but even more terrible when New Year's Eve fell on a Sunday."

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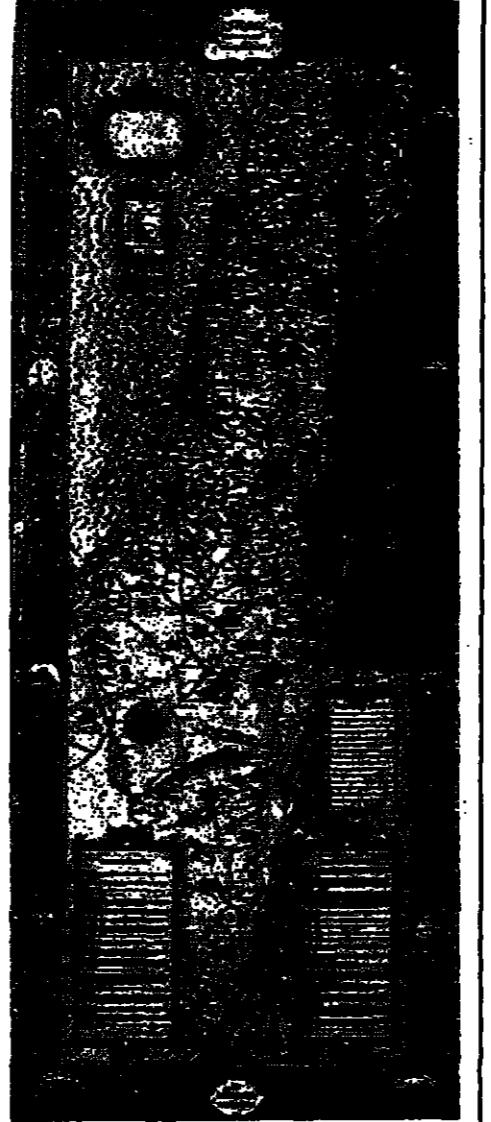
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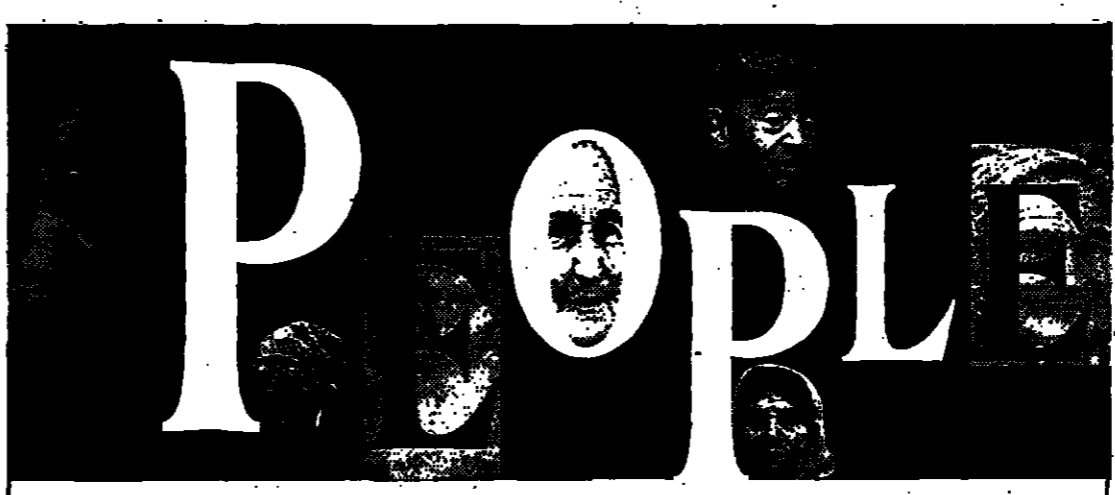
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A new minister

TODAY'S appointment of Tzahi Hanegbi as full-time justice minister not only marks the maturing of a political firebrand, but is indicative of the changes the Likud has undergone since it took office in June. In an interview this weekend with *Ma'ariv*, Hanegbi praised the previous government for having had the courage to cross the political Rubicon and recognize the PLO. He candidly admitted that the Likud would never have been able to take such a step and thus, in his words, would have doomed Israel and the Palestinians to "eternal conflict."

And speaking of the planned redeployment from Hebron, Hanegbi noted that so long as the security of the Jewish population in the city could be ensured, he would enthusiastically vote in favor of the withdrawal. He stressed that he had no desire to control the lives of the city's 120,000 Arab residents. Such talk from a leading member of the Likud's right-wing faction would have been unheard of a year ago. It marks a healthy realization by senior cabinet ministers that, however problematic, the diplomatic developments since 1993 cannot be ignored.

This moderation on the part of Hanegbi has not gone unnoticed in some quarters. The bulletin boards of Jerusalem are full of "Wanted" posters for the new justice minister, pasted up by right-wing groups protesting Hanegbi's failure to join the campaign against the Hebron redeployment, a stance that is especially interesting given that his mother, former Tehiya MK Geula Cohen, now lives in Kiryat Arba. But Hanegbi's change of thinking is also worthy of note because of his own record of political activism on the Right.

Hanegbi sprang to nationwide attention almost 20 years ago, when he led the fight against Israel's withdrawal from Yamit, as mandated by the peace treaty with Egypt. While a student at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Hanegbi's involvement in campus politics spilled over into violence, leading to a court appearance and a fine. Once a Knesset member, Hanegbi could always be relied upon to live up to his reputation with his acerbic comments, and, at the height of the street protests against then-premier Yitzhak Rabin, Hanegbi tampered with the public address system at a Jerusalem ceremony and drowned out the prime minister's speech.

When he was given the job of acting justice minister following the resignation of Ya'acov Ne'emman, many commentators slammed the appointment, saying that despite his legal training, his "colorful" past made him unsuitable for such a sensitive portfolio. But during this period, Hanegbi has shown that—as he put it—approaching middle age (the minister is still a few months short of his 40th birthday) has dampened his previous exuberance and lent him the gravitas needed for his new position.

His first and most important job as acting justice minister was to restore confidence to a badly shaken staff at the Justice Ministry. Ne'emman, who is religious, slammed the door when he left in August, unfairly accusing the ministry's senior personnel of anti-religious bias. Hanegbi has successfully restored calm to the staffers, even stressing that he had no intentions of firing Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair, who, for some on the Right, has become the symbol of the previous administration and a target for their ire.

But now that the caretaker period is over, Hanegbi will have to do more than show he can smooth over hurt feelings. The major task he faces is to set in motion the development of a clear set of legal guidelines to govern both the division of power between the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government and the resolution of religion-state conflicts. The lack of a constitution has created a legal vacuum on both of these issues, which is being filled by an increasingly activist High Court of Justice. While the court, as shown in opinion polls, does enjoy the confidence of the majority of the public, its increasing involvement in public life has led to tensions with the religious community.

Hanegbi is the first to admit that he cannot fill former justice minister David Liba'i's shoes as a legal authority. This, however, should not necessarily hinder him in his new task. So long as Hanegbi succeeds in putting the best interests of the judicial system—particularly in his capacity as chairman of the committee for judicial appointments—above narrow political considerations, then there is no reason to view his appointment with the concern it might have raised a few years ago.



Absent no longer

DURING a visit to a Presbyterian church in Seattle, Washington, I watched as a group of parishioners assembled one Sunday afternoon in a regularly-scheduled gathering to pray for peace in the Middle East.

First they were shown a Palestinian propaganda videotape which charged that Israeli authorities were trampling Christian holy sites as part of an effort to "Judaize" the holy city. Needless to say, the participants were horrified.

"May God protect the people of Palestine and their capital Jerusalem from the Israelis," one of them implored in her prayer.

Several weeks later, in the midst of the global flap over the Hasmonaean Tunnel, another group of Protestants on a pilgrimage from Norway stood near the Western Wall and prayed for God to give Israel the strength to withstand international pressure to close the tunnel.

"We have come to be with the Jews and bless them in their hard times," a nurse from Oslo told me.

Two religiously-inspired views of events in Israel. They reflect such polar opposites that one may wonder how they could be derived from anything remotely resembling the same faith, let alone the same branch of Christianity.

Yet despite the gulf between them, both reactions are manifestations of a common trend among Protestants worldwide: an increasingly assertive desire to demand a say in the future of Jerusalem.

For religious Protestants it is a rediscovery, of sorts, of the Christian claim to a city that figures in the theologies of the three major monotheistic faiths.

To be fair, the Christian attitude today is not territorial, as it is for Jews and Moslems. That is, there is no desire for political control as long as Christian shrines are allowed to function freely.

The denominations that do maintain churches in the Old City—mainly Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy—date back to the time of the Crusades and before, when they did indeed partake in the recurring struggles over the sacred city.

These churches still feel deeply attached to the city, as is manifest in the squabbling for control over every inch of the floor at the

JEROME SOCOLOVSKY

Church of the Holy Sepulcher by Orthodox Greeks, Syrians, Copts, Armenians and Roman Catholics. Protestants, especially from the US and other points outside Europe, have no such roots. Their sects are relatively recent innovations, born out of schisms far removed in time, distance and spirit from Jerusalem. But the seeds of the rediscovery were there from the beginning.

The Protestant emphasis on the scriptures of the Old Testament set the stage for a perpetually unsettled ambivalence toward the people who placed all their emphasis on those same scriptures, the Jews. It resulted in a love-hate relationship that botched out in the virulent anti-Semitism that underlay the Holocaust but which has now reached a philo-Semitic peak in the pro-Israel fervor of Protestant fundamentalists today.

In fact, the establishment of the State of Israel has given the ambivalence a new focal point at a time when the religion is spreading, especially in the Third World, through the efforts of evangelists.

Protestants are beginning to leave their mark on the city where their savior was crucified

crowds, including growing contingents from Africa and Latin America, to a "Feast of Tabernacles Celebration," a spectacle to behold in which thousands of Christians sing and pray in Hebrew.

Up on Mount Scopus, the Mormons, who paralleled their struggle for acceptance in the US a century ago to the ancient Israelite search for a Promised Land, have set up the Middle Eastern Studies branch of Brigham Young University.

Sunday prayers are held in a chapel with panoramic windows that open onto an inspirational view of the Temple Mount.

In general, to the extent that the attitude of a Protestant Christian is based on his or her beliefs, the key factor is how literally those same beliefs are rooted in the scriptures.

For instance, Fundamentalists—Evangelicals, Baptists and the like—find it most natural to sympathize with Israel; they take the prophecies they read in the Bible at face value and believe that supporting the reestablishment of Jewish sovereignty over all the land of the biblical kingdom of David will hasten the day of redemption.

But for church-going members of the more liberal Protestant denominations the matter is more complex.

An allegorical approach to scripture allows a more flexible approach to the issue. For some, religious motives make them strong backers of Israel.

Perhaps the most prominent example is President Clinton, who in a speech to the Knesset two years ago recalled that as a child he was told by his pastor that the Jewish state should never be forsaken.

But many others, like the Presbyterians at the Seattle church, are sincerely confused by what they see and hear, and apt to respond to propaganda from almost any quarter.

What is clear is that one way or another, Protestant Christians are beginning to make up for an absence of two millennia and leaving their mark on the city where their savior was crucified.

The writer, a journalist who has covered the Middle East for US media, is currently doing research in the politics of religion at the Hebrew University.

Kept back

PHILIP WARBURG

LAST week the Palestinian Authority hosted a full-day seminar on environmental legislation at the Shawa Conference Center in Gaza. Palestinian officials from Gaza and the West Bank were expected to attend. As it turned out, none of the latter arrived.

It wasn't for lack of trying. En route to Gaza from my West Jerusalem home I drove by the Gilo checkpoint to pick up a Palestinian water quality expert needing a ride. My colleague stood waiting on the Bethlehem side, neat in coat and tie.

Seeing me he approached an IDF soldier and presented his identity card and valid travel permit. Hardly glancing at the papers the soldier told me: "He can't enter. There's a closure." I explained the purpose of our trip to Gaza. The soldier shrugged.

The checkpoint officer-in-charge gave the same categorical refusal. As we spoke a steady stream of Palestinian men made their way through the barrier after brief document inspections.

Asked why they were allowed to enter Israel while my colleague said without a moment's pause: "Only doctors can enter." Almost all these "doctors" were dressed in heavy work clothes better suited to a construction site than a medical ward.

My questioning the officer's flip and obviously inaccurate explanation led to a clear threat: "Tougher measures" would be taken if I didn't relent. Expressing my regrets to my Palestinian colleague, I drove on to Gaza alone.

Other Palestinian seminar invitees did manage to cross into Israel via the Ramallah checkpoint. At Erez, however, their luck ran out. The IDF barred them from entering Gaza.

The seminar went forward, with some 80 PA officials engaged in a serious and focused discussion of options for developing new environmental laws and regulations. Notably absent, however, was any West Bank input.

Two years ago an Environmental Planning Directorate was established within the Palestinian Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. Today this department is working hard to build the technical and institutional tools for managing tough environmental problems.

Effective coordination between Gaza and the West Bank is essential. Yet consistently Israeli security practices stand in the way.

I'VE HEARD the story again and

Why stop Palestinian policymakers going about their legitimate business?

again. PA officials from Gaza and the West Bank arrange joint meetings and seminars, but their plans are stymied. In most cases travel permits are denied without explanation. In the relatively rare instances they are granted, officials find themselves blocked at IDF checkpoints.

Even during these past months of tension many thousands of Palestinian laborers have traveled almost daily to construction sites and other jobs in Israel.

There must be a way to provide PA officials from Gaza and the West Bank with similar mobility.

The challenges facing the PA are enormous, calling for laws, policies and institutions governing virtually every sphere of social, economic and political life.

The PA is not merely invited to embrace these challenges; it is specifically required to do so by the Oslo accords.

If the prime minister is serious about advancing the peace process he must find better ways to enable Palestinian policymakers to go about their business. Preventing officials from traveling between Gaza and the West Bank can only fuel the growing Palestinian fear that the gains so painstakingly negotiated under Oslo are at risk.

As a West Jerusalem resident with two daughters in local preschools I am painfully attuned to the risks of terrorism; but this seeming arbitrariness upsets me deeply.

Official vigilance based on sound intelligence is essential. But if the peace process is to survive Palestinian efforts to build viable means of self-governance must be encouraged, not thwarted.

The writer directs the Middle East Program of the Washington-based Environmental Law Institute.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"THE SHOW MUST GO ON"

Sir, — I have been going to concerts, the theater and the opera for at least 55 years and have enjoyed a lifetime of good music and entertainment. True, there were times when things did not go quite right or when the unexpected occurred. There was, for example, the performance at the New York Metropolitan Opera where the audience waited for about 90 minutes till a replacement for an ailing tenor could be readied. I recall an all-Copland concert by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra which ended up being conducted by the guest of honor, Aaron Copland himself, when the conductor became ill. There was the time in Zurich when a strike prevented the scenery from being delivered and the performance was staged on a bare stage. There was once the memorable incident at the New York City Opera when the lead soprano broke her leg three days prior to the performance. The replacement soprano lost her voice just the morning of her performance. But the opera was staged, with the replacement soprano acting out the part on the stage while the other sang the part in the orchestra pit. The key always was: "the show must go on!"

As a result, nothing, in my long experience, prepared me for what I encountered on Friday, October 25, at the Frederic R. Mann Auditorium. My wife and I arrived there expecting to hear the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and the Prague Philharmonic Choir perform Handel's immortal *Messiah* Oratorio. That is what we paid for and that is what we, and everyone in the audience, were entitled to hear. Instead, to our great shock, we learned that, because of the conductor's need to catch a plane, the last one third of the oratorio would simply not be performed!

Now, we can appreciate that Maestro Mehta can encounter personal problems that may make his departure imperative. We can also accept the fact that a threatened strike may upset some plans. However, we cannot believe that, even on short notice, a musician could not be found to conduct the last, and most glorious, portion of a well-known work like Handel's *Messiah*.

This was a blatant violation of a contract between the orchestra's management and its audience and proper restitution is called for.

CHARLES AND JEAN TICHOU
Rishon Lezion.

DISSATISFIED PATIENT

Sir, — Reading Sam Orbaum's article, "The 'Kacha zeh' syndrome," (November 1) brought back several horrid memories of my own stay at Hadassah Ein Kerem last spring. I, too, can remember the endless hours of waiting and being shuffled from place to place.

Upon filling out all required forms with the nurse, I mentioned my inability to digest milk products, under the assumption that it would be taken into consideration when preparing my meals. No such luck, of course, as I was given the same foods as everyone else and was forced to leave most of my breakfast on the tray.

I will never forget the worst part of my stay at Hadassah Ein Kerem. A doctor was preparing me for what was a very emotional and painful procedure. Lying on the table experiencing severe physical and mental anguish, I was harshly told by the doctor to keep quiet because I was disturbing him. There were no words of sympathy or comfort from him or from the nurses present, which was par for the course for the duration of my stay, with few exceptions.

As a third-generation life-member of Hadassah, I am disappointed and disillusioned. Even with the many generous donations garnered to create such outstanding medical facilities, and to maintain a staff whose medical expertise has drawn people seeking medical attention from the farthest corners of the Middle East, it seems that they have overlooked a factor which must be a part of every good doctor's or nurse's make-up—compassion, for during my stay, it was nowhere to be found.

LIZA FARACHDEL
Re'ut.

CLEAR THINKING

Sir, — Thank you for Moshe Kohn's brilliant article of October 25, "Rabin was us." His was a lone voice in the cacophony of idealization and praises foisted upon those of us whose memories are still clear enough to remember the truth.

How refreshing to see the truth in print. Since his assassination, an act rued by friend and foe alike, he has been depicted as a larger-than-life hero and statesman. However, an unfortunate death does not necessarily clean one's slate. I feel that the "peace process" is a grave mistake, more like Moshe Kohn says, "...a march down the road of unilateral surrender," and Rabin was far from my ideal of a statesman.

When Rabin disenfranchised whole groups of his own people, calling them names and exhorting them to leave if they didn't like the way he wanted to run things, callously heaping abuse on them, and was often inciteful and slanderous towards a large number of loyal citizens of Israel, I felt puzzled, angered and frustrated. His lack of caring and understanding about Jewish values, such as Bible and Land, made me feel threatened by my own prime minister.

Hopefully we will be saved from this dangerous morass begun by Rabin. Certainly, articles as clear and courageous as the one I cite by Moshe Kohn can help us see things in a true light. Bravo! Keep it up! We need all the clear thinking we can get.

MARILYN CARMEN
Jerusalem.

EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY

Sir, — With US officials always expressing condolences for every Israeli victim of the violence, it was refreshing to see the US Consul General in Jerusalem Edward Abington visit the home of 10-year-old Abu Shusha in Husan.

Mr. Abington's visit should not be seen only as an expression of sympathy to the double tragedy of the family who lost a son and the only possible savior of his sister who is dying from leukemia. The visit is a clear condemnation of the illegal Israeli policy of settlements.

One hopes that the Jewish settler community reads the international writing on the wall and decides to either live peacefully under Palestinian rule or leave. The days when settlers can turn the West Bank into the Wild West are hopefully coming to a close.

DAOUZ KUTTAB
Jerusalem.

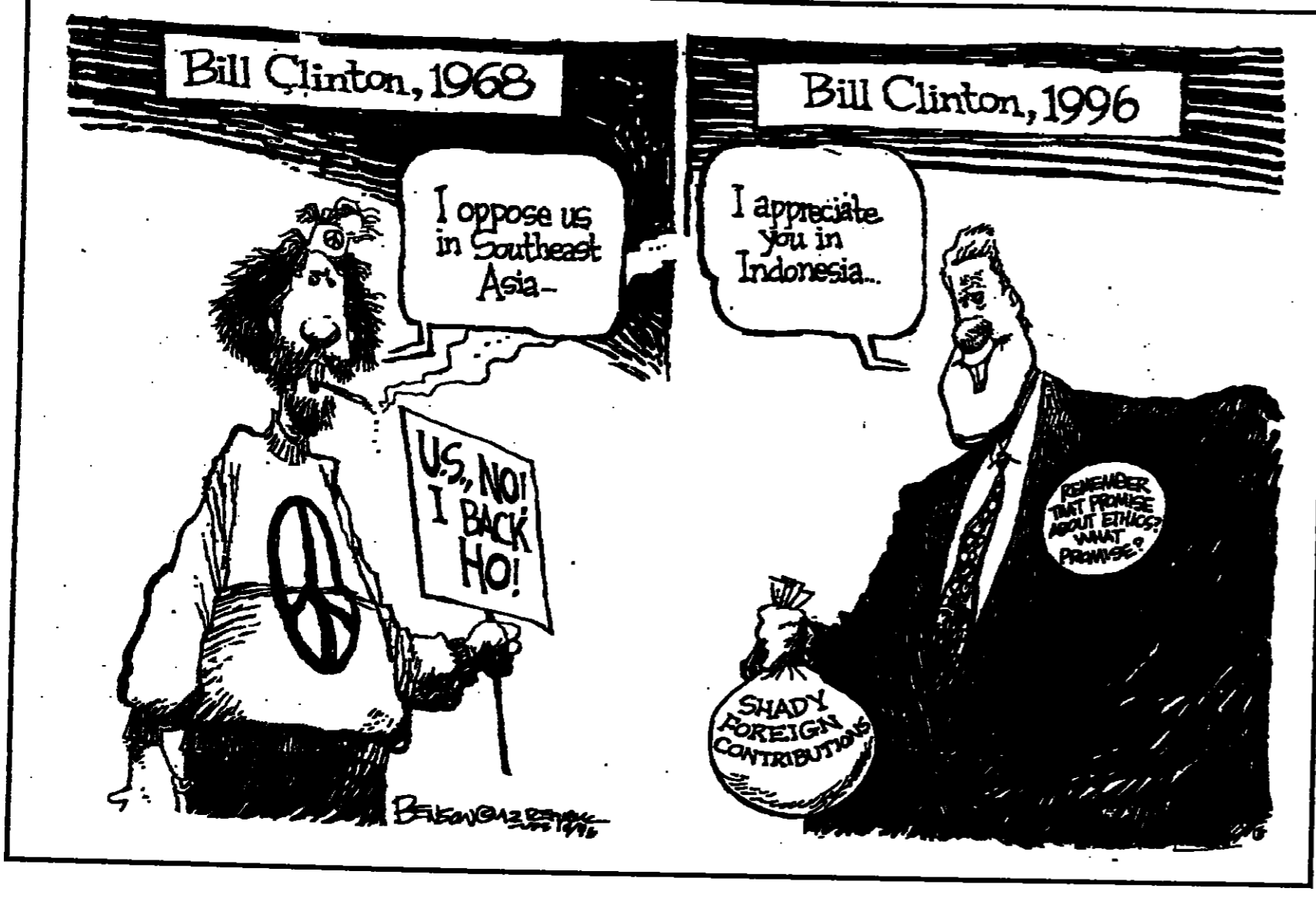
PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Pieces of what appear to be broken glass emerge from the eye of Hasna Meselmani, a 12-year-old Lebanese girl, in a phenomenon that doctors have been unable to explain. Hasna says she feels no pain. At least two pieces of "glass" have come out of her left eye every day since March. (Reuters)

AMERICAN OUTLOOK

Sunday, November 10, 1996



All for one

BY SAMUEL ISSACHAROFF AND RICHARD H. PILDES

The decade-old United States federal policy of clustering blacks and whites into racially designed districts has this fall come under unprecedented attack. Forced by new court decisions to run in majority-white districts, several black candidates across the U.S. South face the prospect of losing their seats. But as this bitter public spectacle plays itself out, the South is also experimenting with another, less public solution to the problem of deep-seated racial and political division. And this one actually seems to be working.

Chilton County, Ala., the self-proclaimed "Peach Capital of the World," is poor even by Alabama standards. Its black residents, 11 percent of the population dispersed in isolated pockets, are poorest of all. In 1988, a U.S. federal court found that the county's blacks had been excluded from local office. The standard solution—minority districts—was unworkable because the county's pockets of African Americans are so geographically dispersed. After much agonizing, white political leaders reluctantly tried something different: cumulative voting. Chilton County's two most important political bodies, the County Commission and the Board of Education, were each expanded to seven members. Every voter was allowed seven votes. He could cast one for each of seven candidates, plump all seven down on one, or choose any option in between.

At first, the shift perplexed many people, including the candidates. Only Bobby Agee, a thoughtful black aspirant for the County Commission, immediately grasped the concept and openly asked voters for all seven of their votes. Most of his opponents seemed to believe that, as the editor of the local paper put it, asking for more than one vote per person was "not the Southern gentleman thing to do."

The results were dramatic: a long-serving white member of the Board of Education lost. Agee won more votes than any other candidate, even though only 1.5 percent of whites cast even a single vote for him. For the first time since Reconstruction, blacks won seats on the County Commission and the Board of Education. There were also unexpected side effects. Other "minorities" started winning. Republicans, scarce in Chilton County local politics, got elected, and, for the first time, a woman won a seat on the Board of Education.

(This parallels a larger pattern: countries with proportional or semi-proportional representation systems average 15 percent women in their parliaments, while democracies with single-member election districts, such as the United States, average less than 6 percent.)

Bobby Agee embodies the hopes that cumulative voting schemes raise. In 1988, he owed his election to black voters. In fact, he was the only candidate to campaign in black areas. In a winner-take-all system, like those used to elect most local governments, he would have been wiped out. When he first took office, he acknowledged, his fellow commissioners considered him "the black representative." Yet, once in office, Agee branched out. A white colleague admitted that Agee proved to be the commission's most educated and talented member.

The 1992 election, the second under cumulative voting, looked quite different. Many white candidates changed their campaign strategies. Realizing that whites would split their votes among white candidates, they turned to blacks as a potential swing constituency. Blacks would vote for Agee, they reasoned, but perhaps they might cast a vote or two for them as well.

White candidates weren't the only ones to shift their strategy. Agee took on a new role as well. He was re-elected, and his fellow commissioners elected him chair. And his election proved an important axiom about the new system. Some white voters had clearly become comfortable with his presence on the commission. Far from causing a white backlash, proportional representation appears to have eased racial division. Agee won twice as many white votes in 1992 as in 1988, and he now gets more phone calls and requests from white constituents than from black ones. Agee's explanation of what has happened under the new voting system sounds almost quaint: people in Chilton County, he reports, are starting to "get away from race, creed and color" and are "looking at the ability of the person."

Proportional representation schemes will be getting the closer look they deserve elsewhere in the U.S., as well. Last year local officials, desperate to avoid costly and divisive redistricting battles, convinced the Texas legislature to allow them to replace majority-rule school board elections with limited and cumulative voting schemes. In North Carolina, after the U.S. Supreme Court first invalidated the state's black-majority congressional districts, Republicans proposed dividing the state into three parts and electing congressional representatives by cumulative voting from within each area.

Such systems are no panacea. But, as it becomes even clearer that racial redistricting raises serious constitutional questions, many years for an alternative. When cumulative voting was first discussed several years ago, it seemed too radical to contemplate. But in Chilton County, Alabama, this novel strategy for transcending racial division doesn't look so radical after all.

Samuel Issacharoff is Professor of Law at the University of Texas and Richard H. Pildes is Professor of Law at the University of Michigan. This article first appeared in *The New Republic*.

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Votes for sale

Distinguishing economic incentives from bribes

BY MICHAEL SANDEL

Reformers have long worried about the role of money in American politics. So did George Washington Plunkitt, the boss of Tammany Hall. The problem with money in politics, he said, is that there's never enough to go around.

This time, there has been plenty to go around. The United States presidential campaign alone has cost \$800 million. Is that too much? By one measure, it's a bargain. In the weeks just before Election Day, Americans spent \$2.5 billion to celebrate Halloween. That we spend three times as much on candy, costumes and pumpkins as on our most solemn civic ritual is good evidence against the proposition that the people know best how to spend their money.

The real problem, of course, is not the amount spent but the influence it buys. It's not exactly patriotic sentiment that motivates Philip Morris, AT&T, the Association of Trial Lawyers, and the Teamsters to contribute millions of dollars to the candidates and parties. Not surprisingly, neither major party has made campaign finance reform a serious issue.

To be sure, presidential candidate Bob Dole has tried to capitalize on revelations that the president Clinton accepted money from Indonesian banking and real estate interests. And the Clinton campaign has been calling attention to a Cuban sugar magnate who has given generously to the GOP and who benefited from Dole's defense of sugar subsidies. But lost in the volley of charges and counter-charges was the larger question of principle: If foreign money corrupts democratic politics in the U.S., what about domestic money? What difference does it make whether American political deliberations are distorted by Indonesian banks, Cuban sugar empires or American tobacco companies? Why sell elections to any moneyed interest, foreign or domestic?

Across the political spectrum, reformers have proposed measures to reduce the power of money—spending limits, free television time, the closing of loopholes that allow massive contributions to be funneled through the parties, the elimination of political action committees. But even the debate over these proposals, itself so dangerous for Clinton and Dole, leaves untouched the deeper corruption that afflicts the U.S. election campaigns: the politics of self-interest. After all, if it is wrong for moneyed interests to bribe politicians with campaign contributions, isn't it also wrong for politicians to bribe voters with campaign

promises directed squarely at their pocketbooks?

Some bribes are more explicit than others. In Plunkitt's day, ward heelers distributed money, meals and favors to bring their people to the polls. In our day, it is more respectable to buy votes wholesale than retail. When casino promoters sought passage last year of a ballot measure to allow casino gambling in the state of Washington, the measure provided that 10 percent of the profits be paid to those who voted in the election. Opponents of the measure complained that the proposal constituted a bribe, but the other side argued that a portion of casino profits often goes to state governments. The Washington measure simply cut out the middleman and offered the money directly to the people.

But what, really, is the moral difference between a politician who buys votes and one who panders to economic self-interest?

In the early 1980s, the U.S. Supreme Court considered the case of a candidate for county commissioner in Kentucky who promised, if elected, to lower the commissioner's salary. His opponent charged that the pledge violated a state law barring candidates from offering constituents a financial inducement for their votes. The court rejected the challenge, ruling that the promised salary reduction did not constitute a bribe. But its opinion displayed the moral confusion at the heart of the politics of self-interest. A state "may surely prohibit a candidate from buying votes," Justice William Brennan wrote. "No body politic worthy of being called a democracy entrusts the selection of leaders to a process of auction or barter." Brennan asserted, but did not defend, a sharp distinction between buying votes and appealing to voters' self-interest. The American "tradition of political pluralism" assumes "that voters will pursue their individual good through the political process," he wrote. Personal benefit "has always been, and remains, a reputable basis upon which to cast one's ballot."

But what, really, is the moral difference between a politician who buys votes and one who panders to economic self-interest? Both offer a financial reward in exchange for a vote. If it is disreputable to sell my vote to a party boss for \$500, why is it reputable to cast my vote for the

sake of a \$500 tax cut? Consider three possible, but ultimately unconvincing, attempts to distinguish the \$500 bribe from the promise of a \$500 tax cut (or other benefit):

(1) The tax cut (or benefit) comes from public funds, whereas the bribe comes from private funds or party coffers. But this makes the tax cut worse. At least the casinos in Washington state were offering their inducements from private profits, not state funds. If the voters must be paid off, better it be done with private money than with taxpayer dollars.

(2) The campaign promise may not be kept, and so will exert a lesser influence on voters than an outright bribe. But this suggests, perversely, that the moral superiority of the campaign promise rests on the fact that the politician who makes it cannot be relied upon to keep his word. In any case, if voters are skeptical that the promise will be kept, they can simply assign it a value that reflects their degree of uncertainty. A promised \$500 tax cut with, say, a 50 percent chance of being enacted would be worth \$250. It wouldn't be any more justifiable.

(3) The campaign promise is public and available to all, but the bribe is secret and offered only to certain people. But many campaign promises (to cut taxes or to dispense benefits) are also targeted at particular groups, or at least have highly differential effects. In any case, if bribes are wrong because they are offered to some and not others, why not universalize them? If votes could be bought and sold openly, the secrecy would fall away and everyone would be free to sell at the going rate. The \$800 million now squandered on bumper stickers, lawn signs and attack ads could go directly to the people.

The reason none of these distinctions succeeds is that they share the assumption, so common these days, that the purpose of democracy is to aggregate people's interests and preferences as accurately as possible and translate them into policy. According to this theory, citizens are consumers, and politics is economics by other means. If this theory of democracy is right, there is no good reason to prohibit the buying and selling of votes. If, on the other hand, Americans want to retain the idea that citizenship is something money can't buy, there is good reason to reconsider the version of democracy we practice in the U.S. these days.

Michael Sandel is a contributing editor to *The New Republic*, in which this article first appeared.

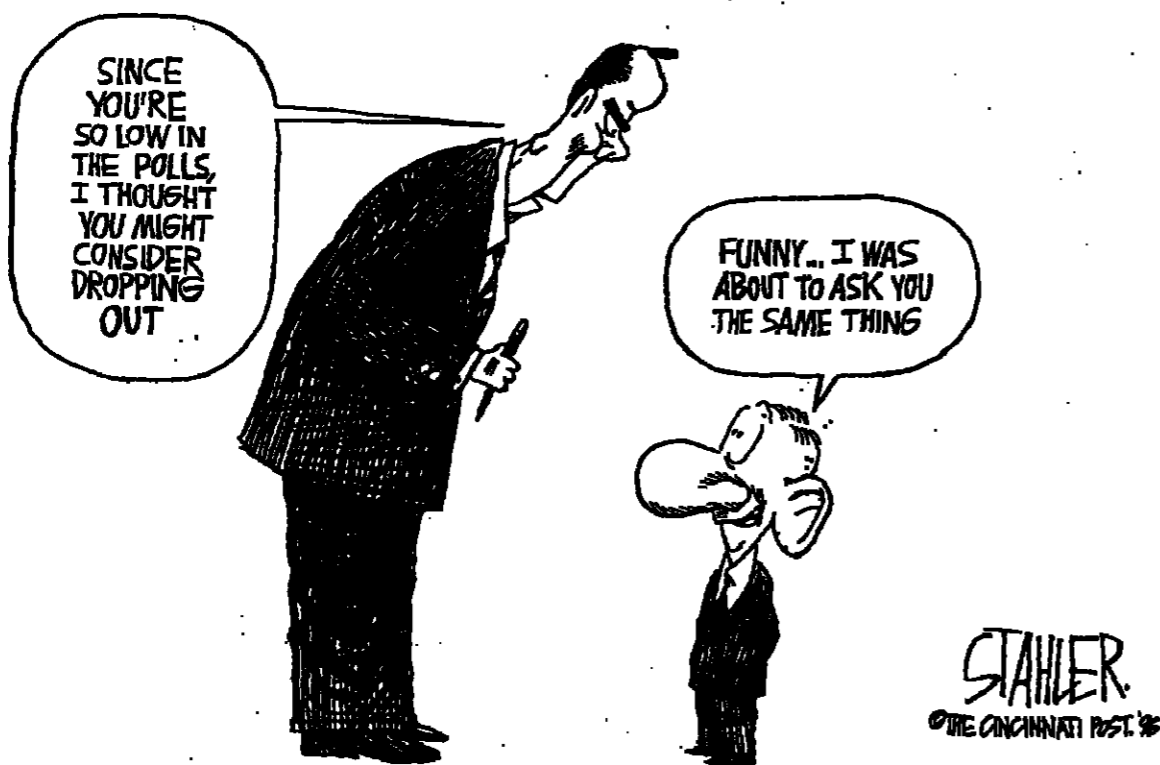
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EDITORIAL CARTOONS

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FEIFFER



The real villain in the Jewell fiasco

By ALAN DERSHOWITZ

Until the bombing at Centennial Olympic Park is finally solved, it will be impossible to pass final judgment on the law enforcement and media actions which have destroyed the life of American Richard Jewell. Some are blaming United States law enforcement sources for leaking the information that Jewell was a suspect. Others are blaming the media for publicizing the leaks without independently corroborating the underlying information. The real villain, however, has escaped criticism.

The U.S. federal judge-magistrate, Gerrilyn G. Brill, who issued the initial search warrant against Jewell, on the basis of a highly questionable FBI affidavit, has some hard constitutional questions to answer. The Fourth Amendment in the U.S. Constitution requires that no warrant be issued except on "probable cause." Yet the affidavit on which the judge issued the warrant does not seem to come close to meeting that exacting standard, according to several lawyers familiar with the case.

The FBI affidavit was kept secret until now, because the U.S. Attorney submitted a motion to prevent its disclosure. The motion filed on Sept. 6, 1996, claimed that "Jewell remains a suspect," although "it is quite possible that Jewell had no involvement in the bombing" and although "there are numerous suspects and leads entirely unrelated to Jewell, and there is evidence suggesting that Jewell did not commit the crime."

Nevertheless, the government asked the court to continue to keep the search warrant affidavit secret. Reading between the lines, the real reason why the government wanted to keep the affidavit under wraps seems to be the potential embarrassment its disclosure might cause. Now that the affidavit, in redacted form, has finally been unsealed, it is easy to see why government officials wanted to keep it from the public. It is chock full of gossip, innuendoes, suggestive half truths and hearsay, but short on hard facts connecting Jewell to the crime. As one of Jewell's lawyers put it: "Every American ought to be scared to death about how little it takes for the government to search you and

to seize your property. I think it's unbelievable that they can conjure up probable cause in this manner." And as Professor Mark Kadish of the Georgia State University Law School, and a former U.S. judge, put it: "There's very little here that connects [Jewell] to the bombing other than he was there."

As one of Jewell's lawyers put it: 'Every American ought to be scared to death about how little it takes for the government to search you and to seize your property.'

According to the Atlanta Journal and Constitution, this is what U.S. Judge Brill had before her when she found that there was "probable cause" for believing that Jewell was the killer.

- 1) Jewell was the person who reported the suspicious package.
- 2) At approximately the same time, an anonymous 911 call was received warning that a bomb would go off in 30 minutes.
- 3) An FBI agent noticed that "Jewell had a look of urgency about him."
- 4) When Jewell worked as a campus security guard he sometimes "exceeded his responsibilities" and conducted traffic stops off campus.
- 5) Some at work said that Jewell used to talk about "cop stuff." He didn't have a "girlfriend, just the job."
- 6) Someone said Jewell knew something about bombs, including pipe bombs.
- 7) Jewell wanted to be assigned to the tower, near which the explosion occurred, and he worked there "seven days a week for 12 hours a day."
- 8) An unnamed source said that Jewell once asked if the tower was made of aluminum and whether it would "stand up" to an explosion.
- 9) Jewell's whereabouts during the time the explosion was planted cannot be independently established.
- 10) On the evening before the explosion "an unknown white man" was seen placing a knapsack in the area where the explosion

occurred. 11) Jewell said that he assisted victims after the explosion, but a videotape shows him running away from the victims.

Even if all these "facts" are true — and Jewell's lawyers say they can prove that the FBI took considerable liberties in recounting what sources told them — they do not constitute the probable cause required for a search warrant to be issued in the U.S., pursuant to which federal agents can break into a person's home and conduct an intrusive search of his most private papers and effects. The U.S. Supreme Court has defined "[t]he task of the issuing magistrate [as] simply to make a practical, common-sense decision whether, given all the circumstances set forth in the affidavit before him, including the 'veracity' and 'basis of knowledge' of persons supplying hearsay information, there is a fair probability that contraband or evidence of a crime will be found in a particular place." The U.S. magistrate in the Jewell case fell far short of performing her important constitutional task.

The hearsay gossip on which she issued the search warrant does not come close to demonstrating a "fair probability" that Jewell was the bomber. The real tragedy is that search warrants are issued every day in the U.S. on the basis of similar innuendo and speculation. Those who drafted the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution expected more of our American judges.

Alan M. Dershowitz is a professor of law at Harvard University. His newest book is *Reasonable Doubts* (Simon & Schuster).

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AMERICAN
OUTLOOK

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Parties labor for congressional control

BY JOHN JUDIS

"We'll have a Democratic Congress controlled by labor bosses," United States Rep. Bill Martini warned followers at a rally in West Orange, N.J. Martini's complaint is standard among Republicans, but it only tells half the story. The AFL-CIO's campaign this year was largely reactive — prompted by a new, and highly effective, coalition of conservative interests. It brought together activists, think tanks, business organizations, lobbyists and politicians to kill U.S. President Clinton administration's legislative initiatives in 1994; it contributed to the Republican congressional victory that November, and drove the GOP's agenda in 1995. Republicans fret about labor's power, but in its wildest dreams the AFL-CIO couldn't wield as much influence under a Democratic majority as would the coalition in a GOP-run Congress.

The coalition's story begins at the end of Clinton's first year in office. For most of that year, Republicans were in disarray. Some wanted to block every administration initiative; some sought compromise. Even a longtime Republican ally like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce was working with the administration to develop its health care bill. But in January 1994, a group of conservatives, emboldened by revelations about Whitewater and other administration scandals, took the offensive against the administration.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, brought together representatives of conservative organizations, including the National Rifle Association (NRA) and the Christian Coalition, to meet every Wednesday at his Dupont Circle office. Working closely with Newt Gingrich, John Boehner and the House Republican leadership, they plotted the defeat of Clinton's health care bill. The business lobby Citizens for a Sound Economy organized a parallel group of business organizations that met regularly on Capitol Hill with Georgia Sen. Paul Coverdell. Both groups enjoyed the cooperation not only of the Republican National Committee, but also of the conservative media. Rush Limbaugh's Washington representative regularly attended the Wednesday Group. Norquist himself was The American Spectator's political columnist and enjoyed close ties to The Wall Street

Journal editorial page.

The groups began by pressuring the Chamber of Commerce to repudiate the Clinton plan. That spring, Chamber Vice President William Archey, who had nurtured the organization's ties to the administration, was forced to resign. He was replaced by GOP loyalist Bruce Josten, who brought the chamber into the new anti-Clinton coalition. After helping defeat the health care plan, Coalition members and their allies in Congress helped stall the administration's crime bill and block a measure to require lobbying disclosure. In November, they contributed campaign workers, brochures, ads and money to the Republican effort to take the House. The National Federation of Independent Business established a PAC that gave \$700,000 exclusively to Republican candidates.

After the Republicans took Congress, Norquist, Boehner, Coverdell, Josten and Paul Beckner of Citizens for a Sound Economy organized the Thursday Group to plot Republican legislative strategy. Composed of lobbyists from businesses and trade associations and representatives from the Christian Coalition, NRA and other conservative groups, it helped develop and then win support for the major Republican initiatives of 1995: the balanced budget proposal (including its reduction in projected Medicare spending), the tax-cut plan and the bills slashing environmental regulation. (The business lobbyists' anti-regulation "Project Relief" was a subcommittee of the Thursday Group.) In the heady first days of the Gingrich Congress, the Thursday Group functioned as the Revolution's boosters and its board of directors.

Soon after the '94 election, members of the Thursday Group began contributing to Republican candidates and to the Republican National Committee, which funneled some of the money back to coalition organizations, including \$2 million to Norquist's Americans for Tax Reform. This spring, when the AFL-CIO's Project '96, aimed at restoring a Democratic Congress, began to enjoy surprising success, members of the Thursday Group plotted a counterattack. Josten, Norquist and Dirk Van Dongen of the National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors organized "the Coalition," composed of twenty-eight business organizations drawn from the Thursday Group. To date, it has raised over \$5 million to run ads on behalf of Republicans being attacked by the AFL-CIO. "The purpose is to stop John

Sweeney (president of the AFL-CIO)," says Josten. The ads accuse the AFL-CIO of spreading "lies" and "untruths," but contain questionable claims of their own — for instance, that "today Americans are paying the highest taxes in history." (Tax revenues increase with-GNP, but federal tax rates now are considerably lower than they were two decades ago.) And while the AFL-CIO identifies itself as the author of its ads, the business groups misleadingly credit theirs to "Americans Working for Real Change."

The AFL-CIO functions primarily as one pressure group among others inside the Democratic Party, but the members of the Wednesday Group, Thursday Group and the Coalition represent a novel fusion of politics, parties, pressure groups and the media. Behind this new alliance rests a vision much bolder than the labor movement's: Norquist wants to transform bipartisan K Street into a handmaiden of the Republican agenda. Lobbyists, corporate reps and business organizations, which previously could cut deals irrespective of party ideology, would accept the "radical free market agenda" in exchange for influence over the timing and details of legislation. "If you are a lobbyist or a consultant for Exxon, you will have to be a Republican," he says. One Thursday Group operative, speaking on background, put this objective even more brazenly. "After the next election," he said, "we'll own K Street."

That depends, however, on whether the Republicans retain control of Congress, and by how much. When I asked Frank Coleman of the Chamber of Commerce whether he is worried that the chamber's identification with the Gingrich Republicans will backfire, he replied, "We don't anticipate anybody other than Speaker Gingrich in January." Norquist is not so ready to declare victory. He characterizes this election as "the Battle of the Bulge." "You guys break through and you'll slow us down for five years," he says, identifying me with the Democrats and the AFL-CIO. "You fail to break through, you are history. Do you really think the AFL-CIO is going to be allowed to fund campaigns as it does if the Republicans control the Congress?" It's quite a prospect, enough to keep some American's voting Democratic well into the next century.

John Judis is a senior editor of The New Republic, in which this article first appeared.

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Clinton loses cool and maybe votes in funding flap

BY ROBERT NOVAK

WASHINGTON—Bill Clinton's fabulous temper, held in check even behind closed doors during his reelection campaign, exploded in the privacy of Air Force One late last week. The cause: campaign finance.

United States President Clinton was furious that revelations of questionable contributions from foreign sources were disrupting his careful plans for coasting to a second term. If not enough to defeat him, the new developments may shave Clinton's vote-perhaps holding him below a 50 percent popular vote—and deprive him of a Democratic Congress for the next two years.

"The president was raging in a way nobody has seen in a long, long time," an insider told me. "He came aboard the plane and started shouting, 'Who did this? Who in the world thought we needed this? Who's the idiot?'"

Nobody volunteered as the "idiot" who would walk the plank. In fact, Clinton himself fully participated in the quest for overseas money. HE was caught on videotape praising arm-twisting of Asians to the tune of \$3 million to \$4 million by John Huang, the Democratic National Committee's Asian-American fund-raiser ("my good friend," the president called him).

But Clinton did not like the flood of exposes about Huang using his connections developed as a high-ranking U.S. Commerce Department official to solicit, successfully, big money from Indonesia and Taiwan.

Whenever political tides start to turn against Clinton, he tends to blame somebody else. So he was scapegoating unnamed party operatives for the first setback his campaign has sustained all year.

Democratic hopes of regaining Congress have flagged since campaign finance has become an issue.

There is no question that the eleventh-hour introduction of campaign finance has had an effect on the campaign, but probably not enough to avert a Clinton victory. The most recently released Gallup poll (for CNN and USA Today) shows 50 percent for Clinton—his lowest total in weeks—with Bob Dole stuck at 37 percent and Ross Perot still in single digits at 7 percent.

The trends suggest Clinton falling short of his goal of becoming the first U.S. Democratic presidential candidate since Lyndon Johnson in 1964 to finish well over 50 percent. More important, Democratic hopes of regaining Congress have flagged since campaign finance has become an issue.

The Clinton campaign at first used its patented tactic of responding to any attacks by charging Republican mean-spiritedness and then claiming the GOP has done the same thing. But by last Wednesday, Clinton decided something more was needed: a campaign reform speech to be delivered Friday in California.

It wasn't one of Clinton's better efforts. Very little of it related to campaign reform. There was no "action" item—such as promising to return tainted foreign money. His call to bar contributions from non-citizens echoed what Dole had said a day earlier.

But Dole also lacks credibility on the issue. Indeed, the issue did not seem to affect public opinion until Reform Party nominee Perot started slashing at Clinton with far more coherence and effectiveness than Dole. Actually, neither Republicans nor Democrats care much about campaign reform. But can a Democratic president and a Republican Congress ignore this issue in 1997 as they have in the U.S. for so many years?

Robert Novak is a syndicated columnist of the Chicago Sun-Times.

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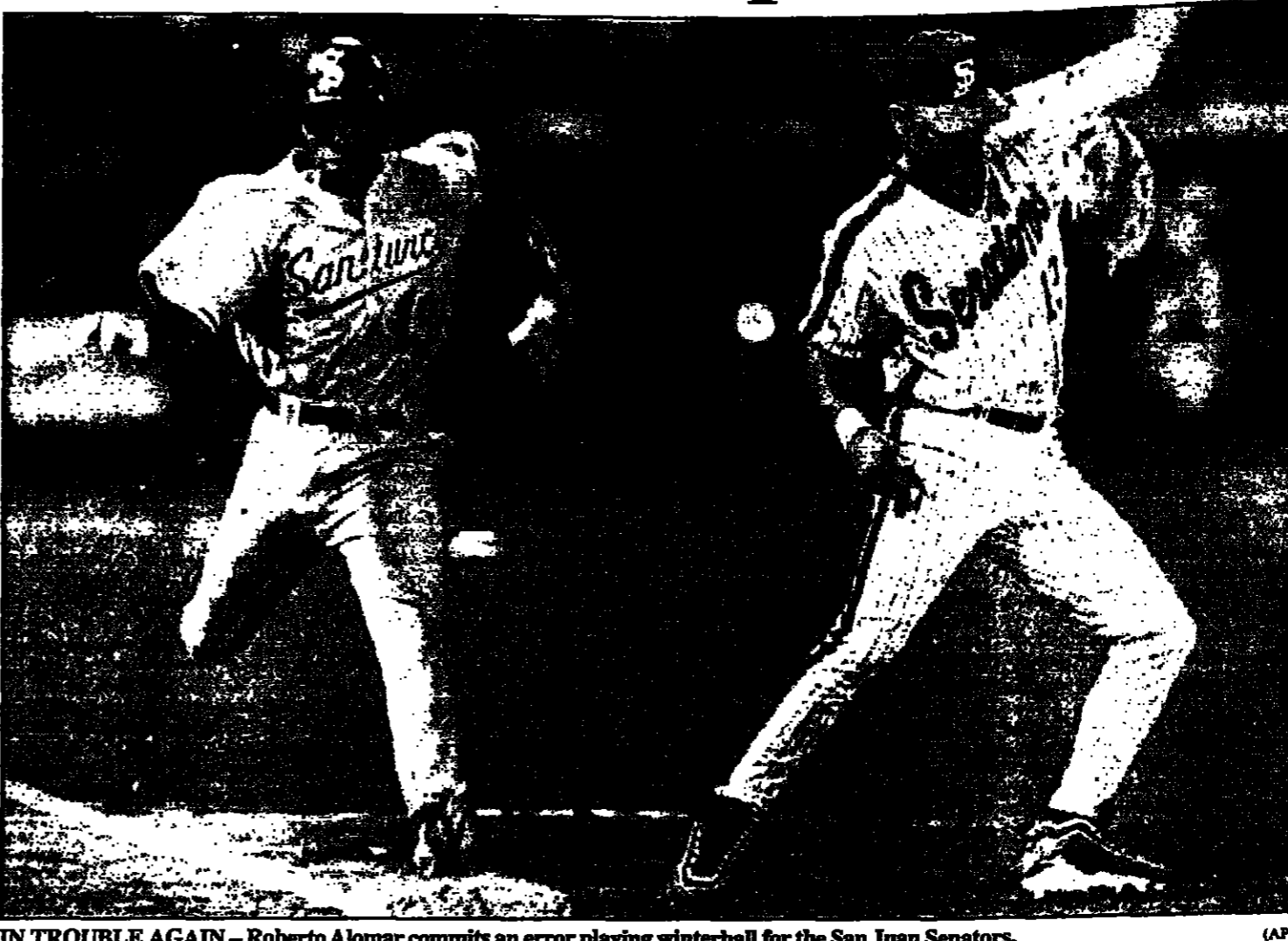
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NFL individual leaders

Table with columns for AFC and NFC divisions, listing player names and statistics for various positions like Quarterbacks, Running Backs, Receivers, etc.

Alomar tells his side of spitting story

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) - Roberto Alomar says umpire John Hirschbeck cursed at him, provoking the spitting incident during the final weekend of the Major League Baseball season.



IN TROUBLE AGAIN - Roberto Alomar commits an error playing winterball for the San Juan Senators.

"I think people in the States don't understand what happened. They got me all wrong," the Baltimore Orioles Puerto Rican second baseman said Thursday night after playing in the San Juan Senators' winter league opener.

"I regret what I did," Alomar said. But I love my family. ... He provoked me first. That's the point I want to make. I didn't show him up. I didn't throw my helmet."

strength to deal with it." Roberto Alomar admitted the criticism affected his play during the postseason.

SCORING

Table showing scoring statistics for various NFL teams, including touchdowns, field goals, and points.

Ferguson ponders ironies of 10 years at United

MANCHESTER (Reuter) - Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson must be wondering whether his 10th anniversary at the club is an occasion for laughter or tears.

"I regret what I did," Alomar said. But I love my family. ... He provoked me first. That's the point I want to make. I didn't show him up. I didn't throw my helmet."

Australian cricket coach unperturbed by team's dismal play

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP) - The critics said Australia's cricket tour to India was a disaster. The Australians lost the only Test to India and failed to win a match in a limited-overs series against the host nation and South Africa.

Team statistics

Table with columns for AFC and NFC divisions, listing team statistics such as total yards, rushing, passing, and defense.

Three weeks ago his side was one win away from a place in the quarter-finals of the European Cup and two points away from the top of the Premier League.

"It's an ironic life," he reflected morbidly after the Fenerbahce match. "You prepare to celebrate 10 years at a club and instead find yourself suffering the first home defeat in Europe. I had hoped it wouldn't happen during my time here."

Turkish teams fined for fan violence

NYON, Switzerland (AP) - Turkish soccer clubs Galatasaray and Fenerbahce have been heavily fined by UEFA for violent conduct of their fans in European cup competitions.

NFL standings

Table showing NFL standings for the American Conference and National Conference, including win-loss records and percentages.

Divisional leaders clash as Bills meet Eagles

NEW YORK (AP) - There's only one meeting between division leaders in the NFL today, and it's not Dallas at San Francisco.

Aikman's pass in the end zone and lateraled to Troy Vincent, who returned it for the clinching touchdown.

Barry Switzer, who has been playing both ways for Dallas, might see a little less action at wide receiver this week because of the return of Kevin Williams from a broken foot.

This week's schedule

Table listing NFL games for the week, including matchups and broadcast information.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Mizrahi Bnei Yeh' and 'Erich pla'.

Key Representative Rates table showing U.S. Dollar, Sterling, and German mark rates.

NEW YORK STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes table listing DJ Industrial, DJ Transport, DJ Utility, etc.

Other stock market indexes

Table of other stock market indexes including FTSE 100, Nikkei, Hang Seng, etc.

ISRAELI STOCKS IN US

Table of Israeli stocks in US including Am I Corp, Am I Corp, etc.

LIBOR RATES

Table of Libor rates for various terms and currencies.

FOREIGN FINANCIAL DATA COURTESY OF COMMSTOCK TRADING LTD.

Text describing foreign financial data services provided by Commstock Trading Ltd.

US COMMODITIES

Table of US commodities including Gold, Silver, etc.

LONDON COMMODITIES

Table of London commodities including Oil, Sugar, etc.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table of spot market metals including Gold, Silver, etc.

Dow sets another record close

WALL STREET REPORT: NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks moved within a point of its first record close since mid-October.

Ball in Clinton's court

WALL STREET WEEK: NEW YORK (Reuters) - Post-election hurrahs set off fireworks in the stock market but Wall Street may turn cautious as it waits to get a glimpse at President Clinton's agenda for his second term.

Advertisement for Israel Discount Bank with logo and text: 'Invest in the world's major exchanges with Israel Discount Bank'.

FTSE struggles upward

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP: LONDON (Reuters) - UK shares struggled to a modestly higher finish Friday after another disappointing week as interest rate worries continued to pressure the London market.

PARIS - French shares closed in negative ground after racking up major gains this week, tracking Wall Street's welcome to Bill Clinton's return to the White House.

Dollar falls again

CURRENCY REPORT: NEW YORK (AP) - The dollar weakened further Friday on fear that Japan and the US now wait a stronger yen, despite assurances from Japanese officials that their foreign-exchange policy remains unchanged.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Table of Israeli money markets including Patah foreign currency deposit rates, Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates, and Bank Leumi rates.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table of international stock prices for various countries including New York, London, Frankfurt, and others.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of mutual funds categorized by Flexible and Shares.

State Bonds

Table of state bonds from various states including Arizona, California, etc.

Company Bonds

Table of company bonds from various corporations including Alcan, Amstar, etc.

Foreign Currency

Table of foreign currency exchange rates for various countries including Australia, Canada, etc.

Conservationists protest Hula Valley tourism plans

THOUSANDS of people converged on the re-flooded section of the Hula Valley yesterday as part of an event organized by conservationists opposed to tourism development plans for the area.

Traffic jams developed on the track leading to the site and spilled over onto the main Rosh Pina-Kiryat Shmona road because of attempts by farmers to block the entrance.

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI), which organized the event, called in the police, charging that although the land surrounding the new lake is privately owned, the access track is a public right-of-way.

"When we reached the access route, we found the track had been blocked off with rope and hand-written 'No Entry, Private Land' signs had been put up," said SPNI spokeswoman Orit Nevo.

"The police intervened, especially after seeing the crowds of people and the traffic jams, and the track was opened," said Nevo.

The SPNI held free guided tours of the site for visitors and explained to them why the society is opposed to the

DAVID RUDGE

plans for building a vacation resort and other tourism facilities alongside the recently re-flooded section of the valley.

The society maintains that the development proposed by farmers from local kibbutzim and moshavim would drive away wildlife, especially water fowl and migrating birds, which have begun to return to the area.

The original Hula lake was drained in the 1950's to create more land for agriculture in the region, which comes under the jurisdiction of three regional councils, Merom Galil, Mevo'ot Hermon and Upper Galilee.

The project, however, only partially succeeded because a large section of the land, in the heart of the valley, proved unsuitable for any profitable form of agriculture because of the ground's peaty nature.

Several years ago, it was decided to re-flood over 1,000 dunams and create a lake and waterways. The work, costing tens of millions of dollars, was carried out by the Jewish National Fund.

Since then, according to the SPNI, the re-flooded section has become a major attraction for wildlife, including migrating birds such as pelicans, storks, cormorants and even rare cranes, as well as indigenous birds, water fowl and fish.

"We are not opposed to tourism development in the region generally. On the contrary, we believe, given the public interest in the site, that viable and sustainable tourism projects can and should be established," said SPNI official Eitan Gdalizon.

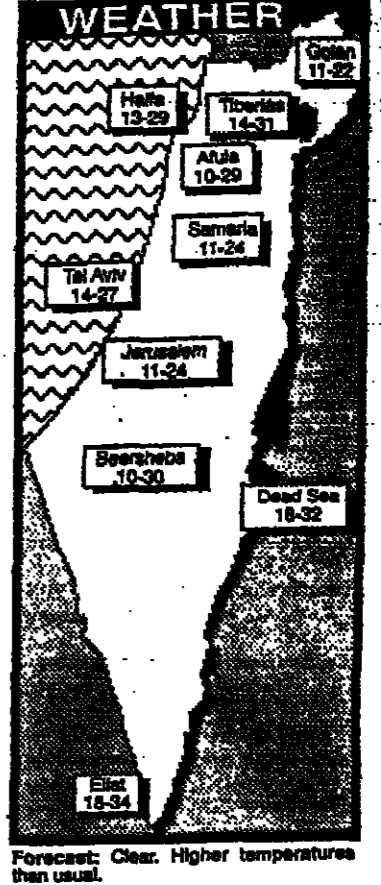
"We believe, however, that the proposals put forward to date for holiday rooms, restaurants, cafes, a promenade, the construction of a jetty on the lake for sailing and other plans, would drive away the wildlife, particularly the birds.

"If the development was to take place on the periphery, rather than alongside the lake, it would be a different story and everybody would benefit," he said.

"Around 6,000 people came to the site throughout the day and we see this as a sign of support for our stance, and that the public wants to preserve the site itself as a natural resource."



Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled joins fourth graders from Herzliya's Alon School Friday for a bicycle safety course at the Center for Road Safety.



Histadrut warns manpower agencies: Don't replace Haifa Chemicals strikers

THE Histadrut's Haifa branch over the weekend warned manpower agencies against dispatching workers to the Haifa Chemicals plant to replace those on strike.

The branch attorney, Ilan Gorvich, sent letters to two personnel agencies saying that sending workers to a plant on strike

would be a violation of the law and the licenses under which the agencies operate.

Last week, the Histadrut declared a general strike at the plant after management closed down its operations due to the work sanctions and disruptions being carried out at the plant by the workers.

The plant workers are protesting the management's announcement to annul the existing collective agreement, which expires next month, and introduce sweeping changes, including personal contracts. Management has also sent dismissal notices to 100 workers.

Real estate executive suspected of evading NIS 97m. in taxes

A REAL estate executive suspected of evading some NIS 97 million in taxes by issuing and buying forged receipts was remanded Friday by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court.

Yitzhak Eini, 42, the owner of two companies, Shaal Eini and Sons and the Shai Eini company, was arrested Wednesday at Ben-Gurion Airport as he was about to fly to London with his son.

According to customs and tax officials, between 1992 and the present Eini, through his companies, issued false receipts to customers that greatly inflated the value of the transactions conducted.

To avoid having to pay taxes on these inflated amounts, Eini then allegedly purchased false receipts documenting fictitious outlays and recorded them in his books. This artificially inflated his companies' expenses and thus reduced their tax obligation.

Customs officials also claimed that the suspect's son, Shaal Eini, hid the companies' 1992-1995 account books after learning that an investigation had been launched.

Officials said that during questioning, Yitzhak Eini claimed that the companies' tax records had been lost in a fire, and that he had gotten the false receipts from a man whose name he knew, but he did not know anything else about him that could aid in locating him.

Yitzhak's brother, Avraham, was also arrested last week in connection with the case.

4 arrested on suspicion of forging ID cards

TEL AVIV police on Thursday night raided a factory that allegedly produced forged identity cards and other documents. Four suspects have been arrested.

The factory, which operated in an apartment on Tel Aviv's Rehov Yirmiyahu, was raided after police

received a tip. Fake salary slips were also produced there, police said.

Police found a printing press and official blue plastic covers for the cards that were apparently stolen from the Interior Ministry. Various credit cards, health fund cards, and membership cards were also found, in addition to bullets and drugs.

A 36-year-old man who lives in the apartment was arrested, as was a man allegedly seen receiving fake identity cards from him on the street.

Another two suspects allegedly purchased fake ID cards to be used

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Man held for raping girlfriend's daughter**
A man suspected of molesting and then raping his girlfriend's 15-year-old daughter was remanded Friday for five days by Haifa Magistrate's Court.
- Worker clubbed in brawl**
A Romanian worker working in Eilat suffered a serious head injury on Friday when he was hit by another worker with an iron bar during a fight. He was flown by helicopter to Soroka Hospital in Beersheva for treatment.
- Man murdered in Kfar Sava**
David Nahshon, 37, was shot dead in Kfar Sava Friday morning, in what police believe was a drug dealing dispute. A Kfar Sava resident, 22, and a Neveh Yamim resident, 19, were arrested over the weekend in connection with the murder. They are to be remanded today. Police said Nahshon had a criminal record.
- Man remanded for impersonating lawyer**
Haifa Magistrate's Court on Friday remanded Khabib Meadar for two days for allegedly impersonating a lawyer, and offering his services to prisoners. Police claim that over the past few months Meadar, 25, of Ein el-Asad, approached inmates in Telshon and Kishon Prisons and offered them legal aid and to buy goods for them. He allegedly received NIS 2,000 from one prisoner and NIS 770 from two others.
- Winning cards**
In Friday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the king of spades, the king of hearts, the ace of diamonds and the eight of clubs.

Israelis and Palestinians 'play for peace'

AN American-based organization is hoping to help improve Israeli-Palestinian relations by encouraging children from both communities to play with each other.

The Play For Peace organization is to conduct a pilot project in Beit Sahur with the aid of Jewish and Arab educators and volunteers.

This follows what was described as an extremely successful venture last week with Jewish and Israeli Arab youngsters in the Galilee, in conjunction with the local Shemesh organization.

"The aim is to promote positive relations among children from cultures in conflict," said Harry Rhodes, executive director of Shemesh, a non-profit body sponsored by the Abraham Fund, which encourages Jewish-Arab

cooperation and coexistence through various joint activities.

"The Play for Peace coordinators spent four days here, first teaching Jewish and Arab high-school students how to organize and run joint play sessions for the youngsters and then holding the sessions themselves," said Rhodes, a resident of Moshav Shorashim in the Migav region of the Galilee.

"It was something very special to see how children can come together through playing games and quickly overcome any barriers of language and cultural differences that might exist between them."

"From the experience we have

Clinton: I'll keep supporting Israel

"I WILL continue to ensure that we remain steadfast in our commitment to enhancing the security and well-being of Israel," US President Bill Clinton wrote Friday to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in reply to a letter of congratulations on his reelection.

Clinton said that he would continue to support Israel's efforts to achieve peace, but to give a chance [for the creation of] laughter and compassion through play, so that children can get to know and appreciate one another as friends," Dobkin said.

"We believe that you should not live in the problem but in the solution. Children are the greatest resource in this respect, which is why we work with youngsters aged between six and 10.

"They have fun playing with one another and the adult and teenage supervisors have a good feeling from seeing them playing happily together."

"It may be only a small step, but it's a positive one. If we do our part and other people do theirs, we can make a change," Dobkin said.

Police crack down on bikers

POLICE issued some 120 traffic tickets to motorcyclists caught committing various traffic violations on Tel Aviv's Rokach Boulevard through Thursday night. One biker also was arrested.

Forty tickets were issued to bikers whose motorcycles were not fit for the road, 35 to bikers whose licenses were not in order and 40 to bikers who were pulled off the road for reckless driving.

Hundreds protest against new land tax

HUNDREDS of landowners from the North gathered outside the Prime Minister's Office on Friday morning to protest what they claimed are unfair land taxes.

Shabtai Azriel, who heads a group formed to protest the property taxes, complained that the new tax on land designated for construction is also applied to land where construction has been temporarily prohibited. These taxes can amount to hundreds of thousands of shekels a year, Azriel said.

People who inherit such land cannot afford to pay the taxes, but the market value of the land is low so it is not worthwhile for them to sell the land, he said. Arab families also prefer to pass their land on to their children rather than to

Clinton: I'll keep supporting Israel

sell it, he noted.

"We demand that [the government] immediately stop collecting the tax on lands on which construction has been frozen," Azriel said.

He called for an investigation of how land taxes are determined and the possibility of granting landowners refunds for past taxes.

Army cuts backs on physical training to save money

dropped, sources said.

The IDF has adopted a training schedule that gradually puts recruits into shape so that by the time their basic training ends nearly all recruits are physically fit.

This approach also leads to less medical problems related to physical stress, a military source noted.

A decade ago it was possible to have whole units temporarily disabled while today that doesn't happen, the source said.

Still, military sources said IDF soldiers who were taken from training schedules and rushed to Judea and Samaria following September's riots or those sent to the northern border were getting out of shape since their physical training had virtually

once needed to be able to lift and carry heavy equipment, they are now pushing buttons," an IDF source said.

Last year, the IDF did away with the physical fitness test requirement for promotion, a move opposed by those involved with physical training.

"The members of the career army force mirror Israeli society and it shouldn't be this way. All those who are in uniform need to be in shape and able to be ready to act in a state of emergency at all times," the source said.

Military sources said a plan is to be implemented early next year that will greatly enhance the physical fitness of the career soldiers. They declined to give details of the plan, but said it was unique to the IDF.

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